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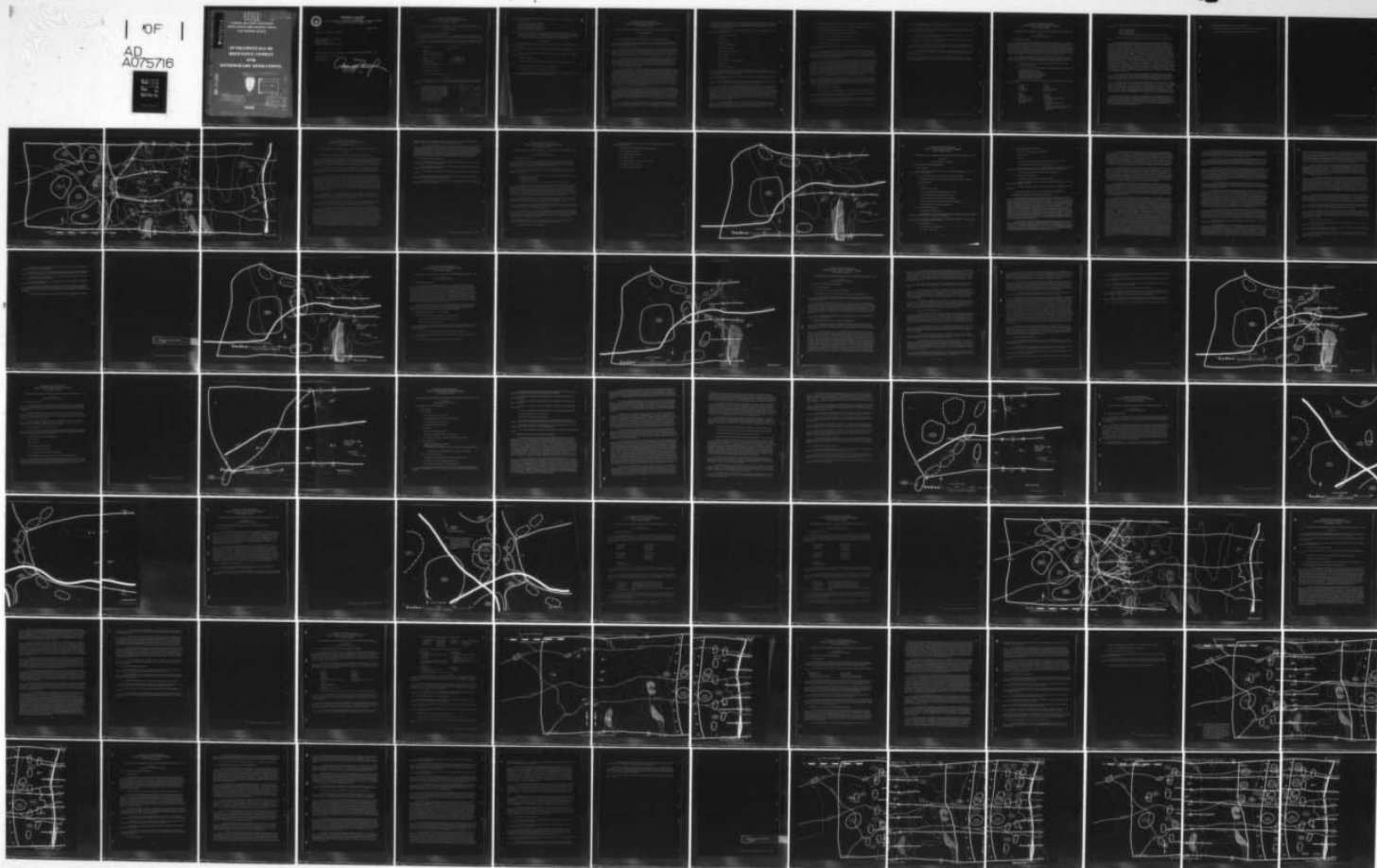
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FUNDAMENTALS OF DEFENSIVE COMBAT AND RETROGRADE OPERATIONS.(U)
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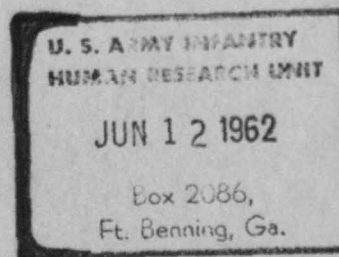
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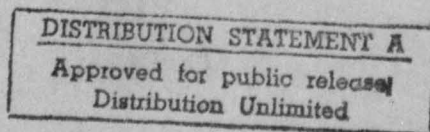
by COMMAND AND STAFF DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES ARMY INFANTRY SCHOOL
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

**FUNDAMENTALS OF
DEFENSIVE COMBAT
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RETROGRADE OPERATIONS**

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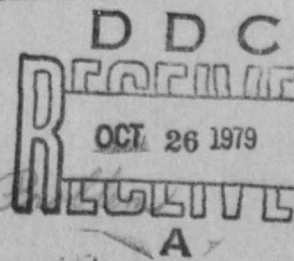
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1962

Instructional Material for

6120



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With Advance Sheet, same title & number.



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A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexander Nicolini".

ALEXANDER NICOLINI
Major, Infantry
R&D Coordinator

Command and Staff Department
UNITED STATES ARMY INFANTRY SCHOOL
Fort Benning, Georgia

6 FUNDAMENTALS OF DEFENSIVE COMBAT AND RETROGRADE OPERATIONS 6120

ADVANCE SHEET

The purpose of this manual is Section I

1. PURPOSE: To provide the student with a general knowledge of defensive combat and retrograde operations at the battalion and brigade level employing mechanized infantry units.

2. SCOPE: Integrated conference and practical exercise utilizing sketch maps to cover the basic concepts of the different types and variations of defensive combat and retrograde operations.

3. INSTRUCTIONS:

a. Study -

FM 7-20, Chapters 6 and 7.
FM 7-30, Chapters 7 and 8.

b. Solve - First Requirement.

c. Bring to class:

- (1) This Advance Sheet.
- (2) O&T Handbook.
- (3) FM 7-20 and 7-30.
- (4) Infantry Reference Data.

Section II

4. The organization used in this problem will be 52d Mechanized Division. The brigades of the division are the 1st, 2d, and 3d. The combat battalions organic to the division are as follows:

2d Mechanized Battalion, 76th Infantry
2d Mechanized Battalion, 77th Infantry
2d Mechanized Battalion, 78th Infantry
2d Mechanized Battalion, 79th Infantry
2d Mechanized Battalion, 80th Infantry
2d Mechanized Battalion, 81st Infantry
2d Mechanized Battalion, 82d Infantry
2d Tank Battalion, 4th Armor
2d Tank Battalion, 5th Armor
2d Tank Battalion, 6th Armor

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5. The division cavalry squadron is the 2d Recon Sq, 23d Cav. The battalions of 52d Mech Div Artillery are:

7th How Bn (105mm) (SP), 50th Arty
7th How Bn (105mm) (SP), 51st Arty
7th How Bn (105mm) (SP), 52d Arty
7th How Bn (155mm/8-in) (SP), 53d Arty
7th Msl Bn (HJ Rkt) (SP), 54th Arty

NOTE: Hereafter, for simplicity, we will refer to units by their short titles, as an example, the 2d Mechanized Battalion, 76th Infantry, will be referred to throughout the problem as 2/76 Mech. Company A, 2d Tank Battalion, 5th Armor will be referred to as A2/5 Armor. Similar abbreviations will be used for other units in the division.

Section III

6. FIRST REQUIREMENT: Make notes in order to be prepared to discuss answers to the following questions:

- a. What are the two basic forms of defense and what are the principal differences between the two?
- b. What are the three echelons of defense and how does each contribute to the defense scheme of maneuver?
- c. What is a battle area?
- d. What are some basic considerations for planning and conducting defensive operations?
- e. What are the three basic types of retrograde operations?
- f. What are the purposes of retrograde movements?
- g. Are the control measures for a daylight-type withdrawal the same as those used for a night-type withdrawal? If differences exist, what are they?

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FUNDAMENTALS OF DEFENSIVE COMBAT AND RETROGRADE OPERATIONS 6120

PRACTICAL EXERCISE

Section IV

7. SOLUTION AND DISCUSSION OF SOLUTION TO FIRST REQUIREMENT:

a. There are two basic forms of defense: the area defense and the mobile defense. The basic difference between the two types of defense is in the disposition of forces and the size and intended use of the reserve.

(1) The area defense is an operation which is based primarily upon the retention of specific terrain. In this type of defense forward positions are strongly held, and emphasis is placed upon stopping the enemy forward of the battle area. The bulk of combat power is committed in the forward defense area. If the enemy penetrates the area, he is destroyed or ejected by counterattack with the principal objective of regaining control of the battle area.

(2) The mobile defense is based primarily upon skillful use of maneuver and fires to destroy the enemy. Minimum combat power is employed in the forward defense area to warn of impending attack, canalize the enemy into less favorable terrain by retention of selected terrain, and otherwise impede, harass, and disorganize him. The bulk of combat power is retained in a strong mobile reserve, positioned for offensive action to destroy the enemy within or forward of the battle area.

(3) The capability for conducting a mobile defense is normally limited to division and higher echelons; however, if a brigade is provided adequate forces and support in relation to its defensive mission and the terrain, it is capable of conducting a mobile defense. The battalion does not have the capability of conducting a mobile defense; however, it may participate as part of a larger unit conducting such a defense. In such an operation, the battalion or brigade may be employed as part or all of the security forces, as part of the forward defense forces or as a part of the reserve. When a brigade/battalion is employed as part of the forward defense forces it may accomplish its mission by conducting an area defense, a delaying action, or some variation thereof. The exact method to be employed is established by the higher commander who informs the brigade/battalion of the mission he desires accomplished and his concept for the conduct of the mobile defense.

b. Defense consists of three echelons: the security area, the forward defense area, and the reserve area. Forces in the security area provide early warning of the advance of the enemy, deny him close ground observation of the battle area, deceive him as to the true location of the battle area and, within their capabilities, delay and disorganize the enemy advance. The forward defense forces engage the enemy in decisive combat or stop, slow, canalize, or disorganize him to facilitate his destruction by other forces and means. The reserve is employed to block, reinforce threatened areas, and/or to destroy or eject the enemy by counter-attack.

c. The Battle Area for any unit (company or larger size) is that area bounded by the implied or graphically represented trace of the FEBA and the lateral and rear boundaries of the unit. The FEBA is always indicated by the use of coordinating points. The rear boundaries

of companies and battalions may not be shown graphically, but always exist. The battle area is divided into a Forward Defense Area (in which the forward committed units are located) and into a Reserve Area (in which the reserve unit(s) and logistical and administrative elements of the unit are normally located).

d. In planning and conducting a defensive operation, the commander applies the following basic considerations:

- (1) Proper use of terrain.
- (2) Security.
- (3) Mutual support.
- (4) All-around defense.
- (5) Defense in depth.
- (6) Proper use of barriers.
- (7) Fire planning.
- (8) Flexibility.
- (9) Maximum use of offensive action.
- (10) Mobility.
- (11) Extent of dispersion.

These considerations, if properly weighed and applied, can spell success for the combat commander. To achieve this success, the commander must determine the degree to which they will be applied in a given situation.

e. The three basic types of retrograde operations are the delaying action, the withdrawal, and the retirement.

(1) In a delaying action, a force trades space for time while inflicting maximum punishment on the enemy without becoming decisively engaged in combat.

(2) In a withdrawal, the main force disengages from the enemy. A withdrawal may be forced or voluntary and may be executed during day or night. If a withdrawal at night is made under enemy attack or when secrecy is lost or cannot be maintained, it is conducted employing daylight withdrawal techniques. Conversely, if smoke or other conditions reduce enemy observation, a withdrawal during daylight may be based on deception employing night withdrawal techniques. The term "night withdrawal" as used in this problem connotes a night-type withdrawal without enemy pressure, usually during periods of reduced visibility. The term "daylight withdrawal" means a daylight-type withdrawal conducted under enemy pressure, normally during periods of good visibility.

(3) In a retirement, forces not in contact move away from the enemy according to their own plan and without direct pressure. Security and movement at night are emphasized. Movement may be impeded by guerrillas, restricted road nets, refugees, airborne raids or other enemy action. A withdrawal from action may precede a retirement.

f. Retrograde movements are made for one or more of the following purposes:

- (1) To harass, exhaust, resist, delay, and inflict punishment on the enemy.
- (2) To draw the enemy into an unfavorable situation.
- (3) To permit the use of elements of the force elsewhere.
- (4) To avoid combat under undesirable conditions.
- (5) To gain time without fighting a decisive engagement.
- (6) To disengage from combat.

(7) To place the forces involved in a more favorable position in relation to other friendly forces.

g. (1) Although control measures for a daylight withdrawal are generally similar to those used for a night withdrawal, there are two principal areas of difference: In a daylight withdrawal, zones of withdrawal and covering positions are assigned. In a night withdrawal, routes of withdrawal are assigned and covering positions are not used; detachments left in contact provide security for the withdrawing forces.

(2) The differences noted above are caused by the type of action involved. A daylight-type withdrawal is normally executed under enemy pressure while a night-type withdrawal is normally executed without enemy pressure. If a night withdrawal is made under enemy attack or when secrecy is lost or cannot be maintained, it is conducted in a manner similar to a daylight withdrawal. Conversely, if smoke or other conditions reduce enemy observation, a daylight withdrawal may be based on deception as in a night withdrawal. In a night withdrawal, routes are assigned inasmuch as closer control of units is mandatory because of reduced visibility. On the other hand, because enemy pressure is anticipated in a daylight withdrawal, there is a greater need for maneuver space, freedom of maneuver, and security for withdrawing forces. Thus, covering positions and zones of withdrawal are assigned.

(3) While these two areas of difference exist, there are other control measures which are equally applicable in a night or daylight withdrawal. Some of these measures include: check points, company assembly areas, phase lines, guides, start points, release points, routes of withdrawal (including alternate routes), road priorities, traffic posts, and, in some instances, traffic control posts.

8. TEACHING POINTS APPLICABLE:

- a. There are two basic forms of defense: the area defense and the mobile defense.
- b. The area defense is a relatively compact defense based upon retention of specific terrain and is designed to stop the enemy forward of the FEBA.
- c. The mobile defense, which is conducted normally by division and higher echelons, is a fluid type defense based upon offensive use of maneuver and fires and is designed to destroy the enemy forward of or within the battle area.
- d. The battalion has the capability of conducting only a part of the mobile defense.

e. Forces participating in a defense are organized into three echelons: the security echelon, forward defense echelon, and the reserve echelon.

f. The security echelon provides early warning of the enemy, denies the enemy close ground observation of the battle area, deceives him, and, within its capabilities, delays and disorganizes advancing enemy forces.

g. Forward defense forces engage the enemy in decisive combat or stop, slow, canalize and disorganize him to facilitate his destruction.

h. In the area defense the reserve is employed to block, reinforce threatened areas, and to destroy or eject the enemy by counterattack.

i. In the mobile defense a large mobile reserve is retained and employed primarily to destroy enemy forces; it may also be used to eject the enemy from penetrations and in exceptional cases reinforce threatened areas or block.

j. Since daylight-type withdrawals envision fighting during the withdrawal, covering forces are used and zones of withdrawal are assigned to afford maneuver space in which to conduct the operation.

k. Retrograde operations are utilized to inflict maximum punishment on the enemy without becoming decisively engaged, to disengage from the enemy, and to avoid engagement under existing conditions.

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Section V
(Sketch Map A to Accompany)

9. GENERAL SITUATION:

a. 1st Allied Army is engaged with numerically superior Aggressor forces approximately 75 km east of BLUE Creek. 1st (US) Corps, consisting of the 21st Infantry, 52d and 54th Mechanized, 103d Airborne, and 25th Armored Divisions, has recently arrived in the Theater and has joined the 1st Allied Army. In accordance with a planned withdrawal of major elements of the 1st Allied Army, the Army commander has directed 1st Corps commander to defend vicinity present position pending withdrawal of friendly forces and resumption of the offensive. At this time, leading elements of the 52d Mech Div are moving eastward and are located vicinity TOWN M. A Corps covering force is located east of BLUE Creek.

b. (1) 52d Mech Div commander was ordered to prepare for mobile defense of his assigned area. He was advised that he had approximately 72 hours to complete his preparations and that the defense in this area would be conducted for approximately four days.

(2) The following attachment was made to 52d Mech Div for this operation:

3d AW Bn (SP), 452d Arty

(3) The 63d Arty Gp (which consists of the following) is attached to 52d Mech Div:

Hq and Hq Btry, 63d Arty Gp

5th How Bn (8-in) (SP), 671st Arty

2d How Bn (155mm) (SP), 615th Arty

3d How Bn (155mm) (SP), 616th Arty

6th How Bn (155mm), 635th Arty

7th How Bn (155mm), 636th Arty

(4) The division and its subordinate brigades have organized for combat initially as shown below:

1st Bde

2/76 Mech

2/77 Mech

A2/4 Armor

3d Bde

2/82 Mech

2/4 Armor (-Co A)

2/5 Armor (-Co A)

2/6 Armor (-Co A)

A2/79 Mech

2d Bde

2/78 Mech

2/79 (-Co A) Mech

A2/5 Armor

Div Trps

2/80 Mech

TF 2/81 Mech (consisting of):

2/81 Mech

2/6 Armor

TF 2/23 Cav (consisting of):

2/23 Cav

7/52 Arty, with one 8-in (SP) and one
155mm (SP) battery attached.

D/52 Engr

(5) Artillery support for organic divisional units will be provided initially as outlined below:

3/616 Arty DS 2/80 Mech
7/50 Arty DS 1st Bde
7/51 Arty DS 2d Bde
7/52 Arty with one 155mm (SP) and one 8-in battery atch TF 2/23 Cav

(6) For simplicity, all divisional elements (Sig Bn, Avn Bn, etc.) have not been shown.

c. At a meeting at division headquarters, the division defense order was issued. Sketch Map A schematically depicts initial dispositions for the division mobile defense. According to the division commander's concept, the division will be prepared to accept a penetration in the center of the sector. Every effort will be made to canalize the enemy into this sector to facilitate his destruction by offensive action of the reserve. The 1st Bde and the 2d Bde on the north and south respectively, will hold while 2/80 Mech (in an economy-of-force role) will withdraw, on order, through TF 2/81 Mech, which is in division reserve occupying defensive positions south of TOWN M. The 1st Bde will, upon division order, occupy blocking positions to its rear in order to maintain contact with 2/80 Mech and, eventually, to tie in with TF 2/81 Mech, holding the nose of the penetration. The 2d Bde will defend in present positions and similarly refuse its north (left) flank by occupying previously prepared positions which canalize the enemy into the center of the division sector where he is most vulnerable to the action of the division reserve. Once the enemy is contained in this area, he will be destroyed by the counterattack of the reserve. TF 2/23 Cav is initially given the mission of organizing and occupying the General Outpost Line (GOPL). TF 2/23 Cav is to execute maximum delay forward of the battle area. Upon withdrawal of the GOP, 2/23 Cav (-) is attached to the 2d Bde. (The Air Cavalry Troop reverts to division control) The 3d Bde in division reserve is prepared to strike the enemy forward of or within the forward defense area. The defense is based primarily on the employment of this force.

d. At the present time, both friendly and Aggressor forces possess nuclear capabilities; to date, both forces have employed nuclear weapons tactically. 52d Mech Div has been allocated 49 nuclear rounds, (including Davy Crockett) for the operation. Allocations have been made to subordinate units; the specific number will be covered in subsequent requirements.

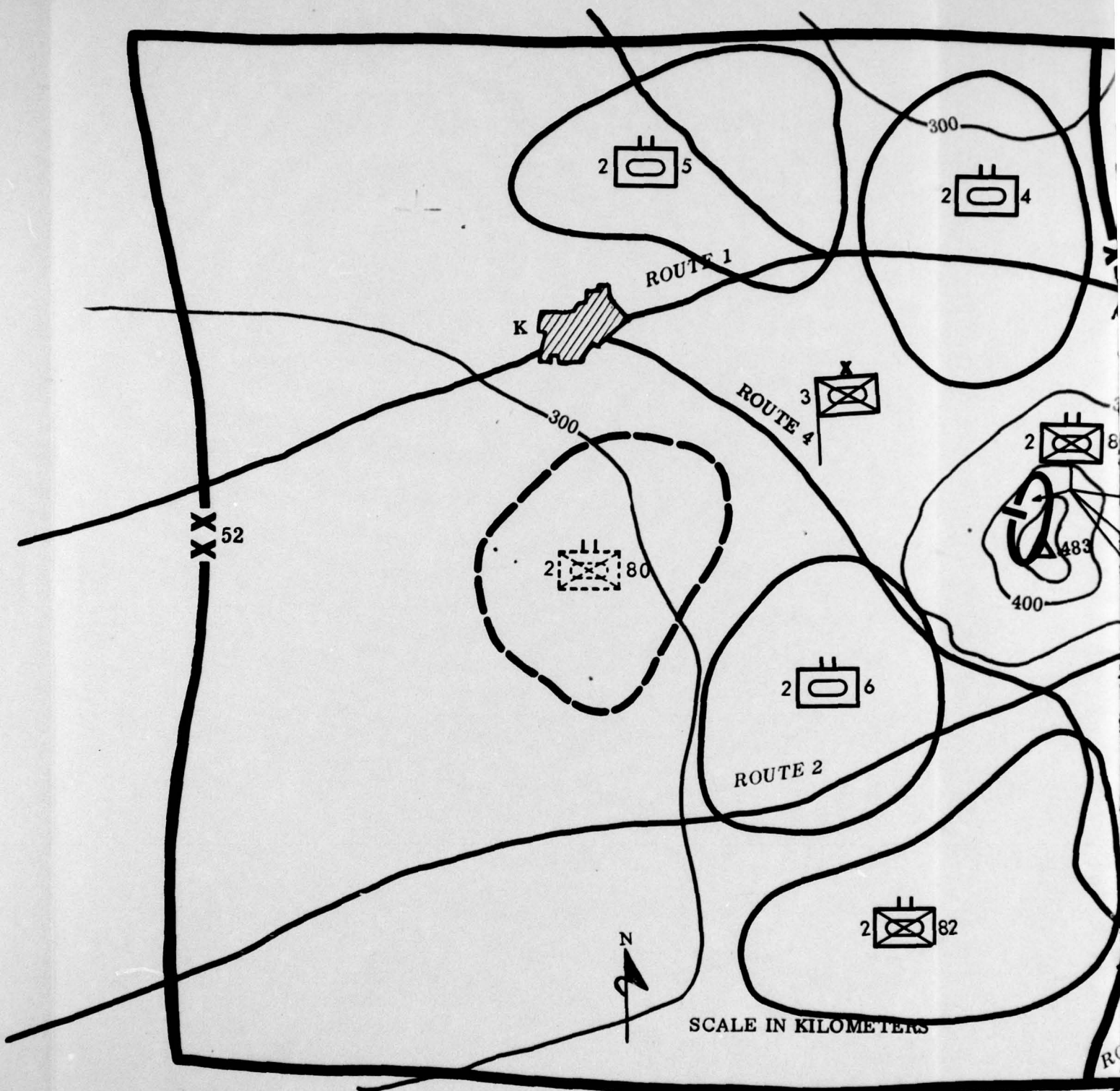
e. Weather and Terrain. Weather is fair and cool; wind is from the south at 5 knots. BLUE Creek is unfordable to vehicles and fordable with difficulty to foot elements. The swampy areas along HARBOR Creek and WHITE Creek are also unfordable to vehicles and fordable with difficulty to foot elements. All other streams and creeks are fordable; however, some of the creeks have steep, muddy banks which preclude vehicular movement. All bridges are intact. Except as indicated above, soil trafficability is generally excellent throughout the area. Trees in the area are scattered. Concealment and cover range from fair to good throughout the area.

10. SPECIAL SITUATION: CG, 52d Mech Div has assigned TF 2/23 Cav the mission of organizing and occupying the GOPL as shown on Sketch Map A. Upon withdrawal of the GOP, 2/23 Cav will revert to control of 2d Bde on the FEBA. 7/52 Arty (with A7/53 and D7/53 Arty atch) and D/52 Engr are attached to TF 2/23 Cav for the GOP mission. Upon withdrawal of the GOP all attached units revert to control of their parent unit. Upon withdrawal of the GOP, the air cavalry troop comes under division control.

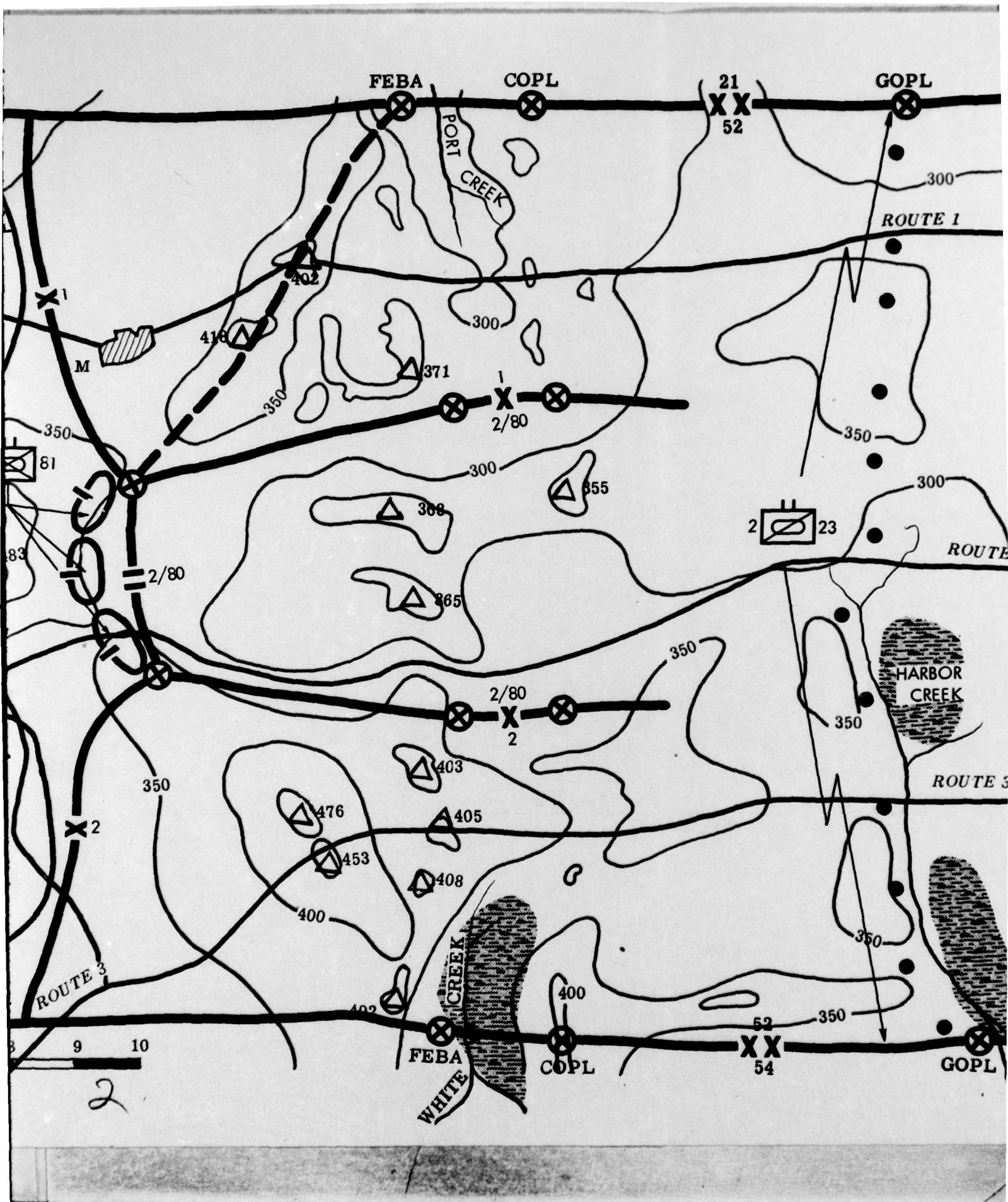
11. SECOND REQUIREMENT: You are G3, 52d Mech Div.

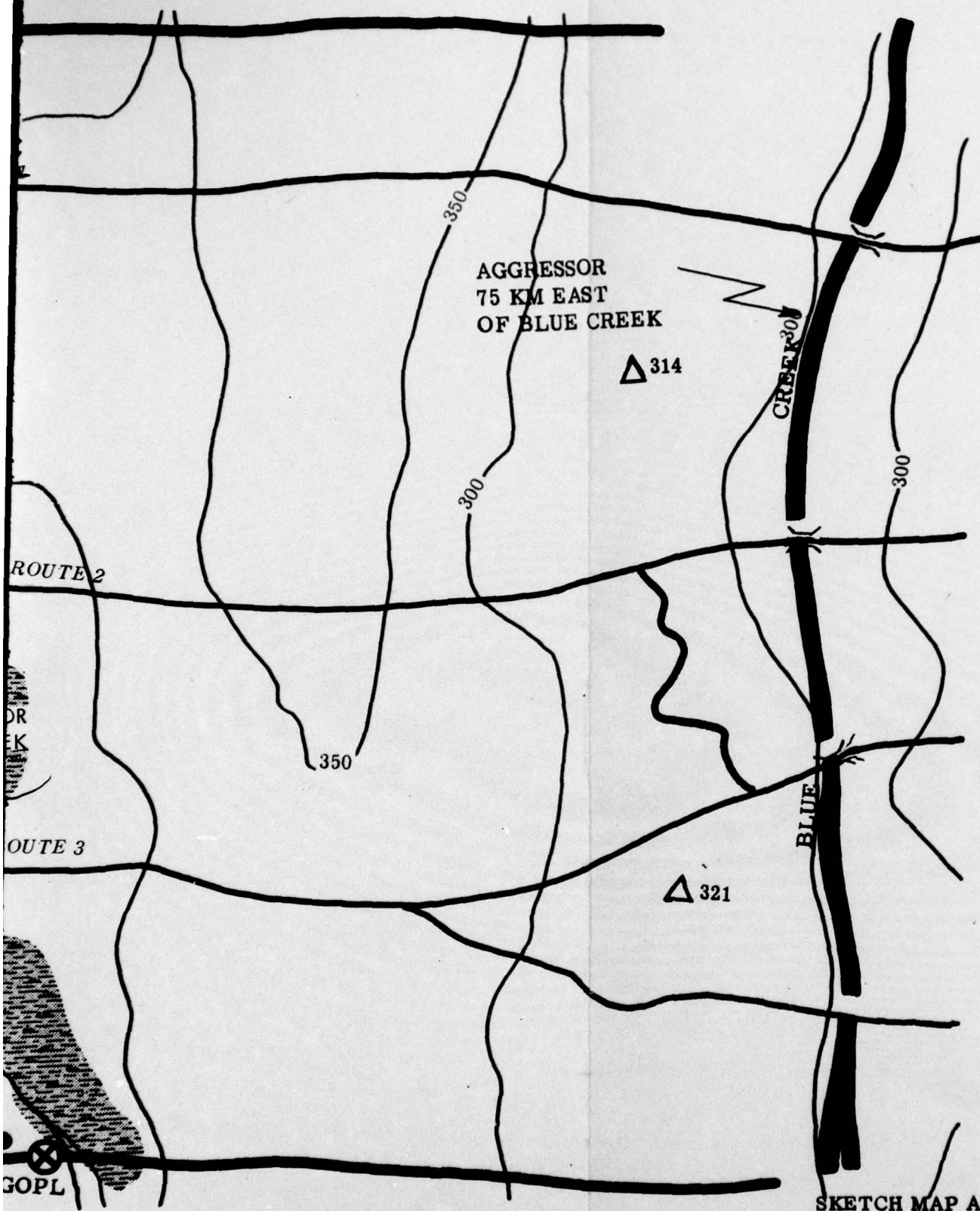
- a. What are some of the missions TF 2/23 Cav will accomplish on the GOPL?
- b. What coordination will be required with other security elements?

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SKETCH MAP A

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Section VI

12. SOLUTION AND DISCUSSION OF SOLUTION TO SECOND REQUIREMENT:

a. (1) The missions which the GOP performs include warning of the enemy's approach, delaying and disrupting the enemy, deceiving him as to the defensive plan, and destroying enemy forces. These missions are accomplished by long-range observation and fires; by aggressive patrolling and reconnaissance; by delaying action and deception measures; and, when necessary, by engaging in close combat. In general, however, the GOP seeks to avoid decisive engagement.

(2) Other missions which may be accomplished by the GOP include: Maintaining contact with and protecting withdrawal of the Corps covering force, providing information, directing fires, and providing stay-behind forces for special missions in the area after passage by the enemy.

(3) The mission and composition of the GOP are usually prescribed by the division commander. The GOP is normally a combined arms team under command of one of the brigades, although a battalion task force or the armored cavalry squadron may also frequently be designated as the control headquarters. When an infantry battalion or other unit is assigned the GOP mission, it is normally reinforced with attached combat and combat support units to enable it to accomplish a delay mission on a wide front. In this case the division commander used the armored cavalry squadron as the GOP force primarily because of its excellent communications and high degree of mobility. Artillery with the GOP normally represents all calibers available to the division to aid in deceiving the enemy. It is usually attached because of the distance from the forward defense area.

(4) Because of the dispersion inherent in any GOP assignment, the probability of enemy infiltration is high. To combat this, the GOP force employs all available means, to include patrols, warning devices, ground and aerial surveillance equipment and observation, to detect enemy presence in the gaps between occupied areas.

(5) During the conduct of the GOP mission, use of Army aviation extends the range of reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition. The air cavalry troop organic to the division armored cavalry squadron provides an excellent capability for such missions.

b. (1) The GOP must coordinate all of its actions forward of the GOPL, including patrols and long-range fires, with the covering force located to its front. If minefields are laid on the GOPL, the covering force must be advised of their location as well as the gaps and lanes in the minefields. Elements of the forward forces or the COP will maintain contact with the GOP. In the same manner, the GOP must maintain contact with the covering force. Ground reconnaissance units are normally used for this purpose. Where security forces are a considerable distance apart, use of aviation elements to maintain contact may be required. The location of barriers forward of the FEBA must be made known to the GOP. To facilitate passage through elements to its rear, the GOP commander will coordinate this action with commanders of forward defense forces and the COP, including reference to routes of withdrawal, recognition signals, communications, location of assembly areas behind the FEBA, and other matters. Priority of routes are normally given to the withdrawing force. Once security forces have been

withdrawn and prior to the enemy closing on the position, lanes through minefields will be closed. Plans are made in advance to close lanes through barriers.

(2) To ensure safe withdrawal of the GOP behind the FEBA, all fires forward of the FEBA are coordinated with the GOP. Unless deception by the GOP is an essential element of the defense, the GOP takes the enemy under fire at long ranges and increases the intensity of fire as the enemy approaches the GOPL. All types of nuclear and nonnuclear fires are delivered on the enemy to disorganize his attack and force him to deploy. By combining these fires with aggressive patrolling and reconnaissance, and by employing delaying action and deception measures, the GOP seeks to avoid close engagement while accomplishing its mission.

13. TEACHING POINTS APPLICABLE:

- a. The primary mission of the GOP is to provide early warning, and deceive, delay, disorganize, disrupt and destroy the enemy.
- b. The GOP may provide security elements to stay behind and collect information and direct fires after withdrawal of the GOP.
- c. The mission and composition of the GOP is usually prescribed by the division commander.
- d. The attacking enemy forces are taken under fire by the GOP at long ranges, consistent with the requirement for deceiving the enemy.
- e. Use of Army aviation by the GOP force greatly extends the range of reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition.

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Section VII
(Sketch Map B1 to Accompany)

14. SITUATION CONTINUED:

a. CG, 52d Mech Div has assigned 2d Bde that area shown on Sketch Map A and B1. The division commander has directed that the 2d Bde defend its assigned sector. He also directed that 2d Bde maintain contact with 2/80 Mech and be prepared to refuse the brigade north (left) flank when the 2/80 Mech withdraws from the FEBA.

b. The 2d Bde consists of 2/78 Mech, 2/79 Mech (-Co A), A2/5 Armor, and, upon withdrawal of the GOP, 2/23 Cav (-Air Cavalry Troop). The brigade has been organized for combat as shown below:

2/78 Mech (1A2/5 Armor attached; 2A2/5 armor attached for COP mission only)
2/23 Cav (-Air Cav Troop)
TF 2/79 Mech (consisting of:)
 2/79 Mech (- Co A)
 A2/5 Armor (-1A2/5; 2A2/5 atch to 2/78 Mech for COP mission only)

c. The brigade commander has assigned areas to the 2/78 Mech and 2/23 Cav as indicated on Sketch Map B1 (Note: This is a brigade area defense). TF 2/79 Mech will prepare positions on the FEBA for the 2/23 Cav and will initially occupy these positions. When the 2/23 Cav withdraws from the GOPL, TF 2/79 Mech will be relieved in place and will revert to brigade reserve. Until TF 2/79 Mech reverts to brigade reserve it will retain a company task force in reserve for possible employment as the brigade reserve. However, it is anticipated that the 2/23 Cav will be in position on the FEBA well before the COP withdraws.

d. The brigade commander has directed TF 2/79 Mech to prepare Positions E and G, in that priority. The 2/78 Mech has been directed to prepare Position F. TF 2/79 Mech has been directed to be prepared to occupy, on brigade order, Positions E, F, and G.

e. 7/51 Arty is in DS of the 2d Bde and 7/52 Arty reinforces the fires of the DS arty bn after withdrawal of the GOP. B/52 Engr is in DS of the Bde. Eight nuclear rounds (including DC) have been allocated to the 2d Bde for the operation.

f. The swampy areas on either side of WHITE Creek are unfordable to vehicles and fordable with difficulty to personnel. Trees in the area are scattered, and the area is relatively free of undergrowth. Concealment and cover range from fair to good throughout the area. The terrain in the southern half of the brigade sector contains numerous natural tank obstacles which will restrict use of tanks in this area.

15. THIRD REQUIREMENT: You are Lt Col 2/78 Mech. Show on Sketch Map B1 your scheme of maneuver for the defense of your assigned sector to include:

a. Disposition of forces along the FEBA.

b. The organization and control of the COPL including the composition and size of orces occupying the COPL.

c. The position(s) and missions of the battalion reserve.

d. What missions do you assign:

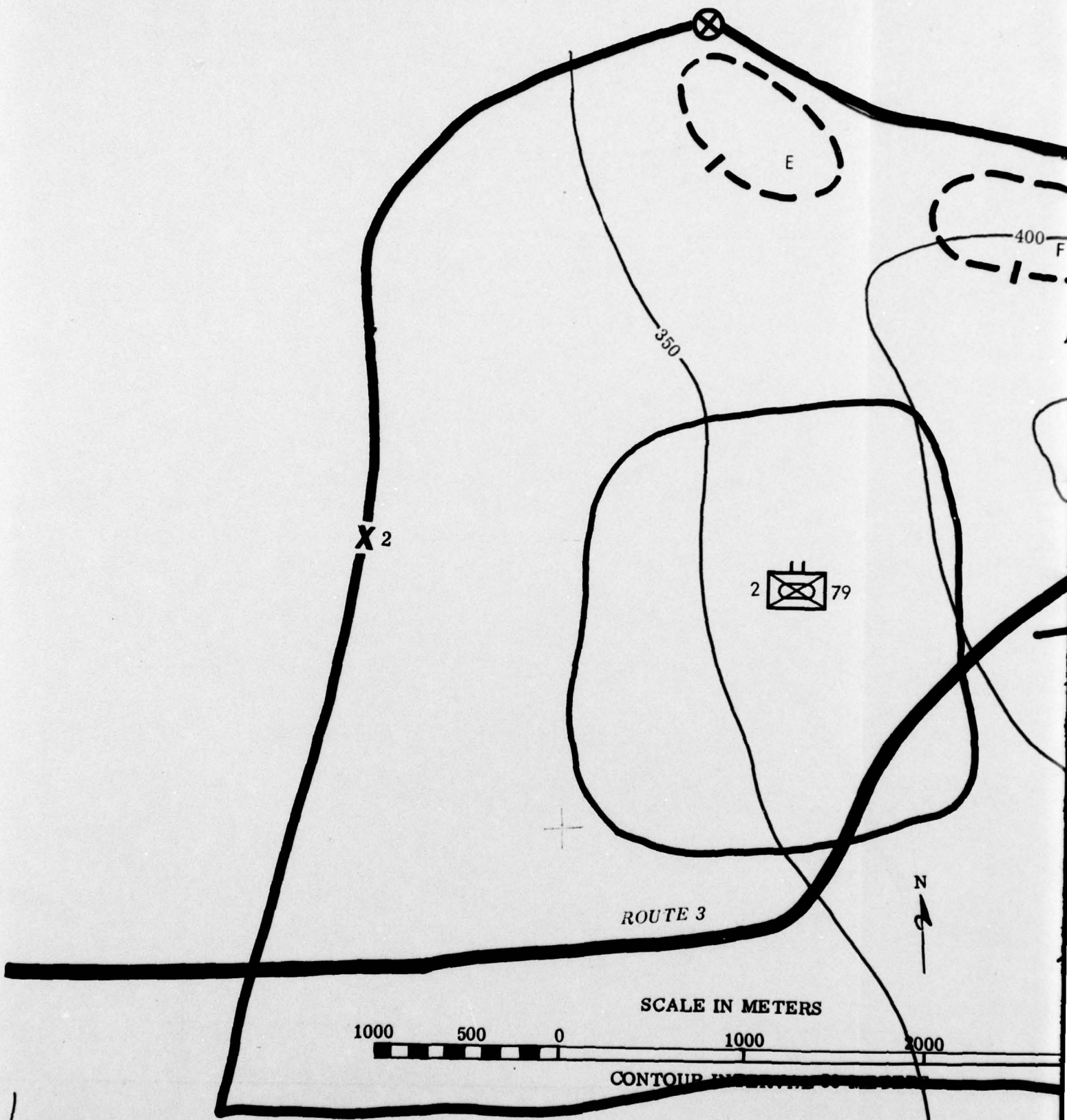
(1) The attached tank platoons?

(2) Antitank platoon?

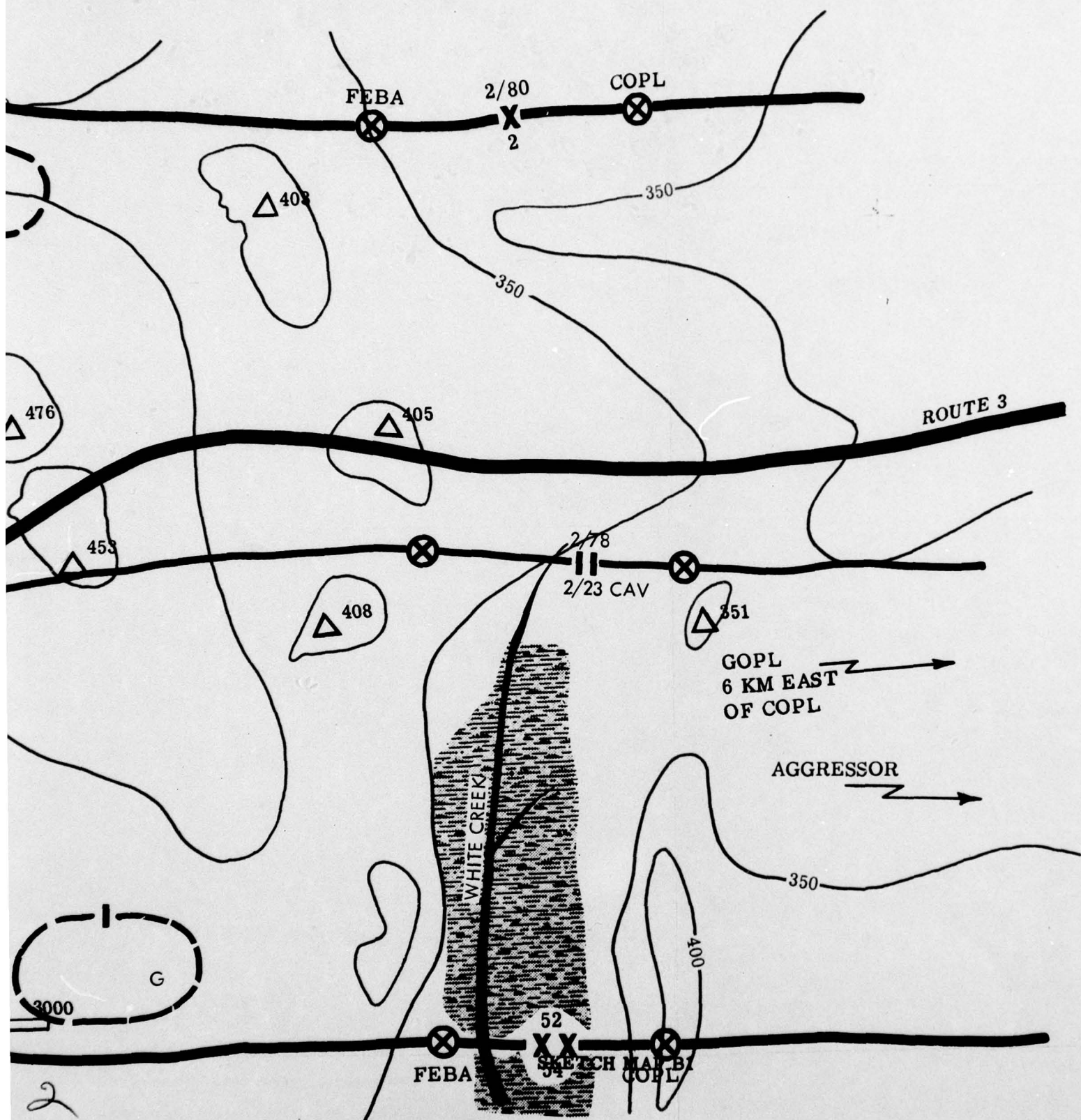
(3) Battalion Mortar and Davy Crockett Platoon?

(4) Armored Cavalry Platoon?

(5) Ground Surveillance Section?



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Section VIII

(Sketch Map B2 to accompany)

16. SOLUTION TO THIRD REQUIREMENT:

a. Sketch Map B2.

b. (1) Combat outpost (COP) consists of two reinforced rifle platoons, with one in front of each forward company.

(2) Reinforced platoons are provided by forward rifle companies.

(3) Responsibility for control of the COP is delegated to forward companies.

c. (1) Sketch Map B2.

(2) TF C:

Attached: 1A2/5 Armor

(a) Execute battalion counterattack plans on order.

(b) Prepare Positions I and F, in that priority.

(c) Occupy Position I; occupy Position F on order.

(d) Be prepared to cover withdrawal of Co A to Position F.

(e) Provide rear area security as directed.

d. (1) Attached tank platoons:

(a) One plat attached to TF C.

(b) One plat (- one section) attached to Co B for employment on COPL. (Tanks revert to control of parent unit upon withdrawal of COP.)

(c) One section attached to Co A for employment on COPL. (Tanks revert to control of parent unit upon withdrawal of COP.)

(2) Antitank Platoon:

(a) Attach plat (-1 sqd) to Co B.

(b) Attach 1 sqd to Co A.

(3) Battalion Mortar and DC Platoon:

Mort: GS from positions west of Position I.

Davy Crockett:

(a) GS.

(b) Initial positions heavy (DC) weapons west of HILLS 403 and 405.

(c) Initial position light (DC) weapon vicinity HILL 476.

(d) Prepare to fire concentrations BB101, BB102, and/or BB103 on call. (Note: These concentrations would be planned on the most likely avenues of enemy approach.)

(e) Select and report alternate and supplementary positions.

(4) Armored Cavalry Platoon:

(a) Initially maintain contact between COP and GOP.

(b) Upon withdrawal of GOP, cover gaps between COP elements. Assist withdrawal of COP elements on order.

(c) Upon withdrawal of COP, screen north (left) flank; maintain contact with 2/80 Mech.

(5) Ground Surveillance Section: GS vicinity Position F and HILL 476.

17. DISCUSSION OF SOLUTION TO THIRD REQUIREMENT:

a. (1) In organizing his defense, the battalion commander analyzes his mission in conjunction with the brigade commander's concept for the defense. In his estimate of the situation, the battalion commander reasoned that, to accomplish this mission, he must place sufficient strength forward to stop the enemy forward of the FEBA, while retaining a blocking and a limited counterattack capability. In his analysis of the terrain, he recognized that the ridge approach along ROUTE 3 was the most dangerous approach into the battalion area. The battalion commander also analyzed the other possible avenues of approach into the position and visualized the dispositions along the FEBA which would be required to block the avenues of approach. (As one technique, the commander may visualize the number of platoon-size units required on the FEBA. From this visualization he then determines the number of companies required and selects tentative lateral boundaries.) He then placed Co A and B forward, utilizing Co C (with a tank platoon attached) in reserve. In this manner the battalion commander tentatively allocated enough combat power to each avenue of approach to provide the degree of resistance envisioned in the defensive plan.

(2) The battalion commander assigned frontages to his forward companies according to the natural defensive strength and relative importance of their defense area. In this situation, Co A is assigned more frontage than Co B because Co A has good defensive terrain and the less critical avenue of approach into its area. Thus, through an equitable assignment of frontage, equal defensive tasks are given to forward companies. Through the allocation of fires and weapons, the commander can further equalize defensive tasks.

(3) Boundaries between the forward companies define the area of responsibility and are extended far enough to the rear to provide adequate areas for the companies to organize their defenses. The boundary is extended forward through the COPL to the limit of effective ground observation. In the event the COP is to be controlled by a battalion reserve commander, the boundary between companies will be extended forward to a point short of the COPL. The boundary is located to avoid division of responsibility for the defense of avenues of approach or key terrain features. Responsibility may be divided when the area is too large to be covered by a single unit. In some instances it may be desirable to attach a platoon from one company to another rather than divide responsibility for an avenue of approach or key terrain feature.

b. (1) The general location of the COPL is usually prescribed by the division commander by means of coordinating points placed on brigade/ battalion boundaries. In this case, the force on the COPL consists of one reinforced rifle platoon forward of each forward company. The COP force forward of a battalion may vary from a reinforced rifle platoon to a reinforced rifle company. The COP force may be provided by the forward companies, by troops attached to the forward companies for this purpose, or by the reserve. Tanks will frequently be attached specifically for employment on the COPL. Normally, not more than a section will be employed to reinforce the COP forward of each company. These tanks revert to control of their parent unit or major defensive assignment when the COP is withdrawn.

(2) Control of the COP is indicated by extension of the boundaries between companies through the COPL. In this situation, the combat outpost is controlled by the forward companies principally because of the requirement for the reserve to prepare Positions F and I. There will be situations when it will be more desirable to have a reserve company both provide and control the COP, e.g., a situation in which the battalion has a limited time to prepare for the defense, and when it is essential that forward companies have as large a force as possible to work on preparing positions along the FEBA; or when the COP is beyond the capability of a forward company(ies) to control.

c. The battalion commander gains maximum utilization of TF C by placing it where it can block the most dangerous enemy penetration. In this position, TF C protects key terrain, controls a dangerous avenue of approach, and may limit a penetration if it occurs. (The brigade commander has provided a highly mobile counterattack capability by positioning TF 2/79 Mech in an assembly area where it can move to any part of the brigade area. While the battalion will normally counterattack against minor enemy penetrations, in a major penetration the brigade must provide the counterattack force.) The attachment of tanks to infantry in the battalion reserve adds to the defense by allowing maximum utilization of the capabilities of both arms in the reserve. The battalion reserve is assigned a contingency mission of providing rear area security forces. While there is no known threat of enemy airborne forces, infiltrators or guerrillas, planning to meet such a threat is necessary to provide an early, effective reaction in the event one develops. A separate plan for rear area security is not prepared at battalion or brigade level. However, rear area security missions are included in the operation order. In addition, rear area security measures are integrated into the fire support plan, barrier plan, surveillance plan and patrol plan. Coordinated rear area defense planning by the S3 is required to ensure elimination within the assigned area of responsibility of any hostile force that is capable of affecting the accomplishment of the battalion mission. Planning must provide for the early detection of such a force. Detection measures normally include observation posts, roadblocks, aerial surveillance, and electronic ground surveillance within the resources available. Successful operations against the type of forces encountered in rear areas require planning to ensure that the enemy is first detected, contained, and then destroyed. The armored cavalry platoon will frequently be employed in a rear area security role, once the COP is withdrawn. A warning system is established throughout the battalion area using security and observation elements already emplaced. Detailed reconnaissance is conducted to locate probable drop and landing zones.

d. (1) (a) When tanks are attached to the battalion in defense, all or a major portion of them are usually retained in reserve in order to participate in counterattacks and provide the battalion with antitank defense in depth. When necessary, one or more tank platoons may be attached to forward rifle companies to thicken the antitank defenses.

(b) There are at least two possible solutions for employing the attached tanks in this situation. One method is to attach the tank platoon to a forward rifle company. This method of employment places maximum antitank protection in the forward areas, but fails to take full advantage of the firepower, mobility and shock action of the tanks as a maneuvering element.

(c) The more desirable solution, considering the mission of the battalion, its assigned frontage and the use of the antitank platoon and company antitank weapons in the forward areas, and one that will provide maximum utilization of the offensive capability of the tanks, is achieved by attaching the platoon to the reserve company for primary use in a counterattack role. The attachment of a tank platoon to the rifle company gives the rifle company commander a TF in which the capabilities of tanks and infantry complement one another. The tanks attached for employment on the COPL will revert to control of the tank company when the COP is withdrawn (see paragraph 17b(1) above).

(d) Tank capabilities are best exploited in an offensive role. However, on occasions it may become necessary to employ them in a blocking role to preserve the integrity of the battalion position. Consequently, the tank platoon must be prepared to occupy a blocking position if the situation so dictates.

(2) (a) Squads of the antitank platoon are usually placed where they can destroy enemy tanks forward of the battle area. To accomplish this, they are located within the forward company's(ies') defense areas and are sited to cover tank approaches. In this situation, the platoon (minus one squad) is attached to Co B to cover the most dangerous tank approach. One antitank squad is attached to Co A providing it, when coupled with the organic antitank capability of this company, with adequate antitank protection. With only three battalion antitank weapons available, the commander must utilize them where most needed, rather than arbitrarily dividing them among the companies. In each company area where battalion antitank weapons are employed, their fires will be closely integrated with those of the company's organic antitank weapons. When antitank weapons are employed in the area of a forward rifle company to cover a tank approach of primary concern to that company, they are usually attached.

(b) In addition to supporting the forward defense forces, the antitank platoon may support any one of the other two echelons of defense, or any combination of all three echelons. When supporting the security echelon, elements of the antitank platoon are disposed with the security force to cover avenues of approach likely to be used by enemy armor. When the platoon is employed with the reserve, it may be disposed to add depth to the antitank defense of the battle area, to protect a flank, or to participate in the counterattack in a supporting role.

(c) When the antitank weapon is not engaged in an antitank role, it may be used against other profitable targets.

(d) The platoon leader of the antitank platoon is responsible for making recommendations for employment of his platoon. After receiving guidance from the battalion commander or his representative (for example, the S3) concerning the plan of operations, the platoon leader makes a study of the situation and area of operations to determine how his platoon can best support the battalion to accomplish the mission. He may recommend that the platoon be in general support, in direct support of certain units, or attached to various units. Alternatively, he may determine that a combination of these methods will best satisfy the require-

ments for support of the battalion. When tanks are attached to a battalion, the tank unit commander may serve as the principal antitank advisor to the battalion commander. When this is the case, the antitank platoon leader will submit recommendations for the employment of his platoon to the tank unit commander, who will incorporate them into his recommendations for a coordinated antitank plan. This working arrangement provides the battalion commander with the best available advice on antitank defense. This arrangement does not deny the antitank platoon leader, as a subordinate commander, access to the battalion commander.

(3) (a) The heavy mortars of the battalion mortar and Davy Crockett platoon are usually employed in general support and are positioned in defilade where they can cover the most dangerous avenue(s) of approach. In this situation the platoon is positioned to cover the approaches in front of both Co A and B. The mortars of the platoon may operate in general support from two firing position areas when the situation so dictates. Examples of this are when defending on wide frontages or when two mortar squads are required to be positioned forward of the FEBA to support the COP.

(b) Davy Crockett squads are normally retained in general support of the battalion or in direct support of one or more of its companies. In this situation the battalion commander retained the weapons under centralized control to afford him greater flexibility in massing and coordinating organic nuclear fires. DC squad leaders select the exact location of the weapon within the area designated by the section leader or supported unit commander. In this case the battalion commander prescribed the general location of DC squads to ensure that the weapons are best positioned to support the scheme of maneuver and to ensure security is provided for the DC squads. Initial, alternate and supplementary position areas are selected which provide concealment and defilade, space for dispersion, and terrain adaptable for the defense of the unit.

(4) The armored cavalry platoon (reconnaissance platoon in infantry and airborne infantry battalions) provides the battalion with a good capability for maintaining contact between the COP and GOP. Upon withdrawal of the GOP, the platoon may screen flanks and gaps between COP elements and may assist elements of the COP in their withdrawal. Upon withdrawal of the COP, the platoon will screen the north (left) flank and maintain contact with the 2/80 Mech.

(5) (a) The medium range radar teams organic to the battalion ground surveillance section are usually retained in general support and positioned so that they can supplement and extend the range of the two short range radars organic to each rifle company.

(b) Although visibility, terrain, and weather have no significant effect on the range capabilities of the radar, it is a "line-of-sight" device and is normally employed on high ground to cover the most dangerous approaches into the area and, to the extent possible, to provide coverage across the entire front. Radar teams may be effectively employed during periods of good and poor visibility.

18. TEACHING POINTS APPLICABLE:

a. Boundaries are located to avoid division of responsibility for defense of avenues of approach or key terrain features.

b. Responsibility for an avenue of approach or key terrain feature may be divided when the area is too large to be covered by a single unit.

c. Forces for the COP may be provided by the forward companies, by forces of the reserve attached to forward companies for this purpose, directly by the reserve, or by a combination of these methods.

d. Antitank weapons are normally located within the area of the forward companies to destroy enemy armor forward of the FEBA.

e. The battalion commander normally assigns equal defensive tasks to his subordinate elements by adjustment of boundaries or the allocation of additional combat power to the units.

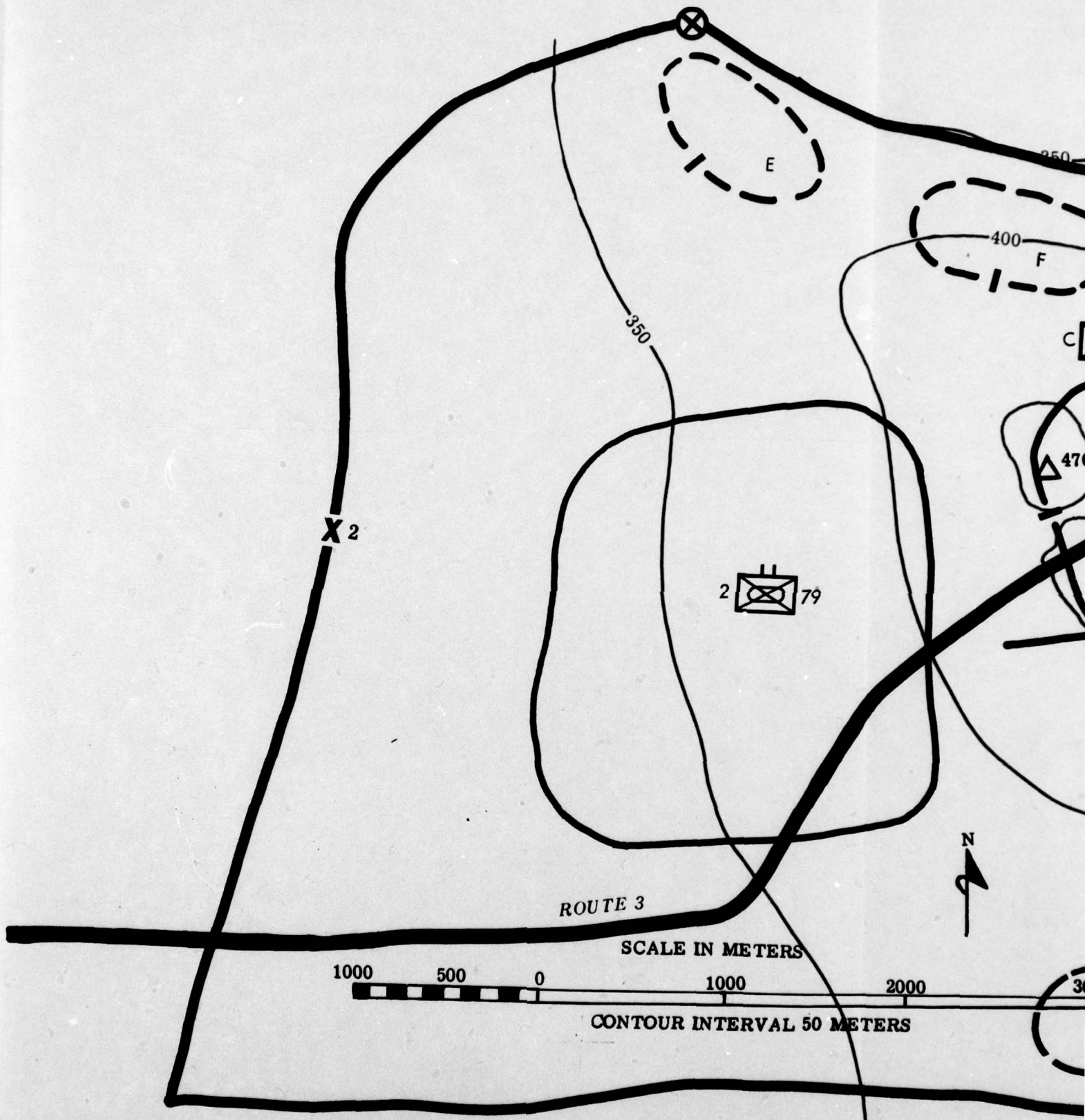
f. In the area defense, attached armor, with its rapid mobility, firepower, and shock action, is well suited for a counterattack role.

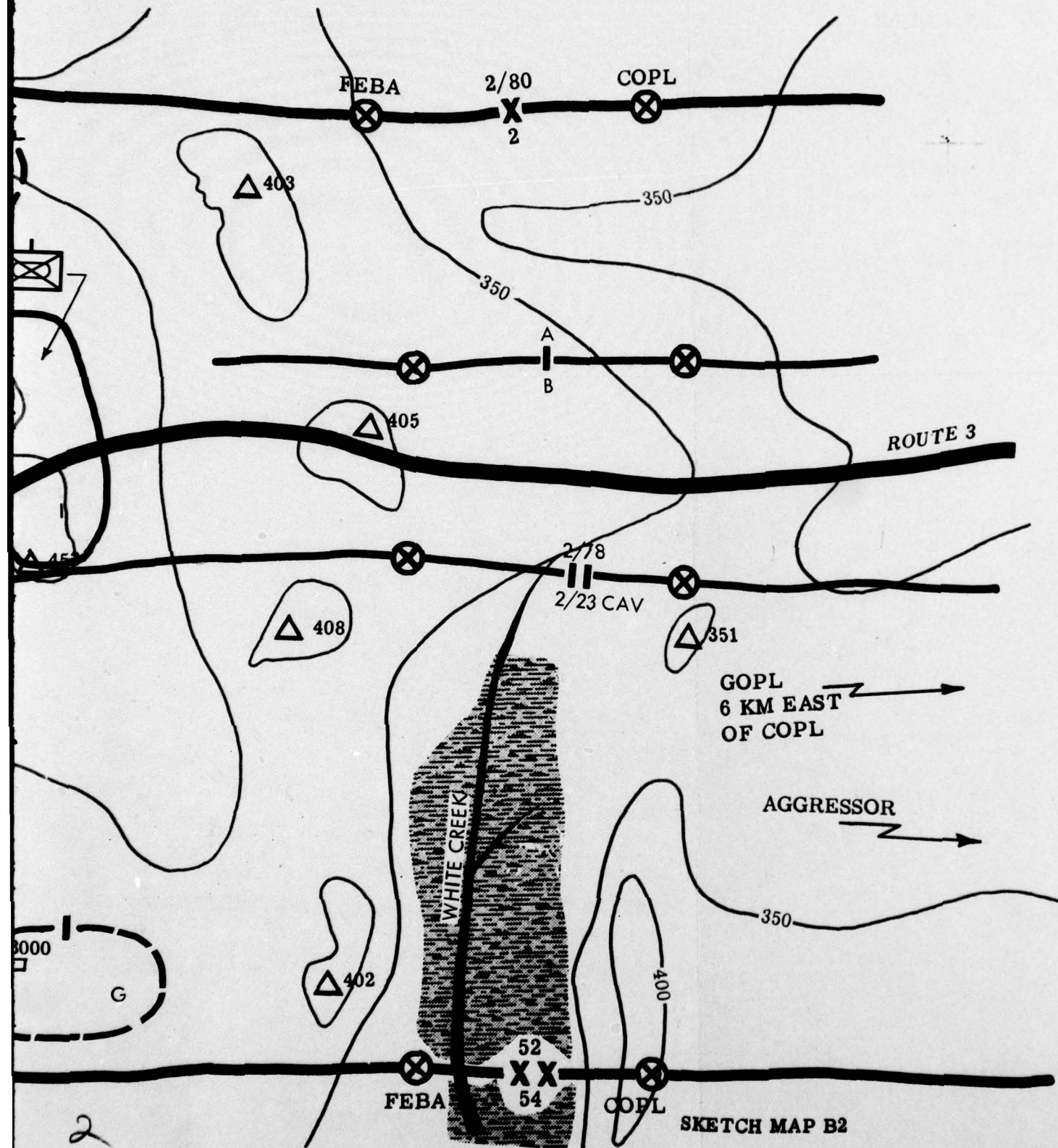
g. Rear area security measures are integrated into the fire support plan, surveillance plan, barrier plan, and patrol plan.

h. The reconnaissance platoon (armored cavalry in mech inf bn) has a good capability for maintaining contact with the general outpost and may cover the withdrawal of the COP or act as a rear or flank security force, or as an emergency reserve force after withdrawal through the FEBA.

i. Radar teams may be effectively employed during periods of good and poor visibility.

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SKETCH MAP B2

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FUNDAMENTALS OF DEFENSIVE COMBAT AND RETROGRADE OPERATIONS 6120

Section IX
(Sketch Map C1 to accompany)

19. SITUATION CONTINUED:

a. Concurrently with his defensive planning, CO, 2d Bde prepares counterattack plans for all likely penetrations of his area of responsibility with priority given to preparing the plan for the most dangerous penetration. These penetrations are limited in size to those which he can handle with his reserve. One assumed penetration which CO 2d Bde considers essential to plan for is shown on Sketch Map C1. In this specific penetration it is assumed that at least one platoon of Co A and two platoons of Co B, 2/78 Mech have been rendered combat ineffective and that Armored Cavalry Platoon, 2/78 Mech has been positioned along the flank of the penetration as shown. The enemy force in the penetration is assumed to include elements of a reinforced mechanized rifle battalion. 2/78 Mech is assumed to have slowed or stopped the penetration, and its reserve company has been directed to block since the penetration is too large to be defeated by the battalion reserve.

b. Nuclear weapons have been used by both friendly and Aggressor forces within the past several weeks; the brigade commander has been informed that the brigade has an allocation of 8 nuclear rounds for the operation. The bde CO has directed the S3 to prepare a counterattack plan for the assumed penetration shown on Sketch Map C1.

20. FOURTH REQUIREMENT. You are S3 2d Bde.

a. Show on Sketch Map C1 your plan for counterattack to include:

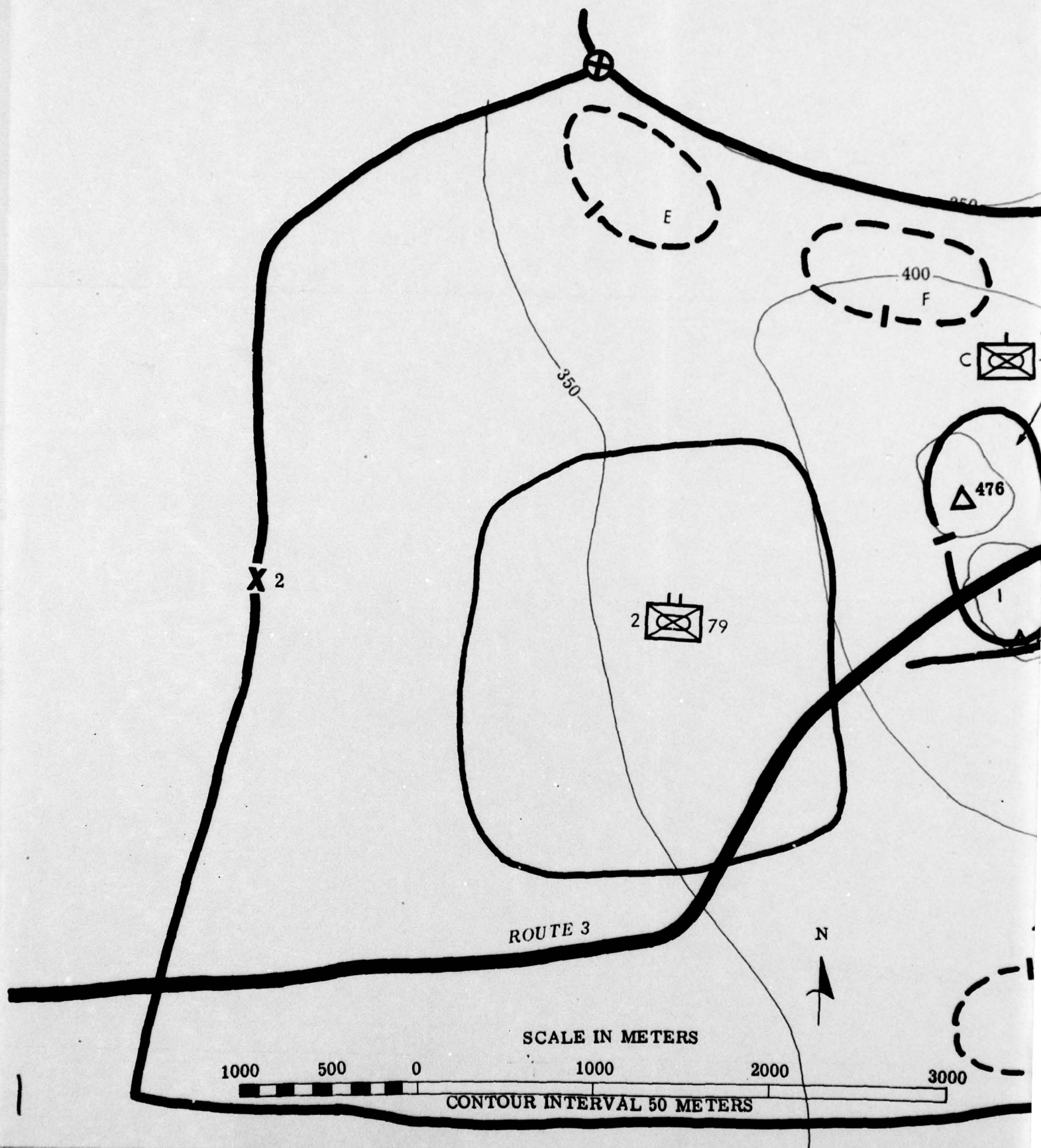
- (1) Graphic control measures (objective(s), LD, etc.).
- (2) Composition of maneuver force.

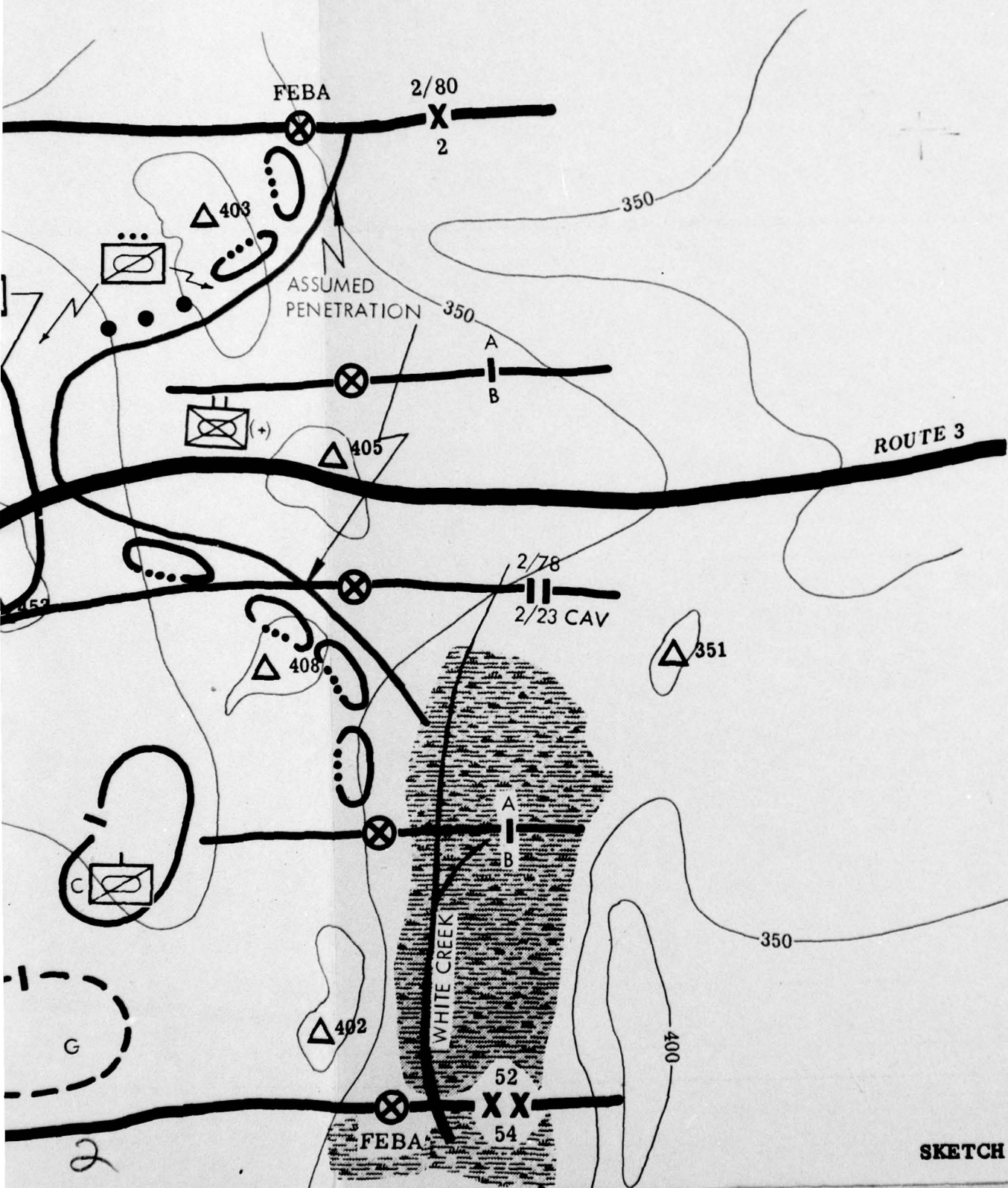
b. What provisions do you make for unit of command for forces involved in the operation, including blocking forces, forces remaining within the area of the penetration, and counterattack forces?

c. What is the controlling factor in determining when to counterattack?

d. If nuclear weapons are to be used for the counterattack, where and when will you plan to employ them?

e. Who accomplishes the detailed planning for the counterattack?





SKETCH MAP C1

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Fort Benning, Georgia

FUNDAMENTALS OF DEFENSIVE COMBAT AND RETROGRADE OPERATIONS 6120

Section X
(Sketch Map C2 to Accompany)

21. SOLUTION TO FOURTH REQUIREMENT:

- a. (1) Sketch Map C2.
- (2) Maneuver force consists of TF 2/79 Mech.
- b. Friendly forces within the penetration are attached to the maneuver force.
- c. The counterattack is conducted when the enemy has seized or threatens to seize terrain essential to the defense or when he otherwise seriously threatens the accomplishment of the defense mission.
- d. If nuclear weapons are used, they will be employed, consistent with troop safety, on the mass of enemy forces located in the penetration, particularly on the nose of the penetration and in the objective area. Care must be taken to ensure that tree-blowdown, fires, rubble, and/or induced radiation weapon effects do not unacceptably restrict the maneuver force. The weapons will be employed immediately prior to the counterattack to breach the enemy penetration and destroy that part of the enemy force whose destruction will best facilitate seizure of Objective 1.
- e. CO, TF 2/79 Mech accomplishes the detailed planning for the counterattack in coordination with the brigade staff.

22. DISCUSSION OF SOLUTION TO FOURTH REQUIREMENT:

a. (1) (a) Objective. Seizure of Objective 1 by the maneuver force will ensure domination of the penetrated area and the restoration of the battle area. Once this key terrain feature is regained by the counterattacking force, enemy activity in the area of penetration can be eliminated.

(b) Direction of attack. A direction of attack is assigned to indicate the specific route to be followed by the center of mass of the maneuver force. It is used to ensure the accomplishment of a closely coordinated scheme of maneuver. If the terrain permits, the attack is made so as to strike the flank of the penetration where the enemy force is most vulnerable. Additionally, the attack avoids friendly defense areas wherever possible to minimize the unnecessary intermingling of blocking and counterattacking forces. In this situation, the direction of attack provides good terrain for movement of the mechanized force and will carry the attack along high ground into the area of penetration. Although it was not deemed desirable in this situation, a counterattack may be made against the nose of an enemy penetration when the use of nuclear weapons will facilitate such a maneuver. In this situation, a counterattack along ROUTE 3 would hit the point of probable greatest strength of the enemy and would also force the enemy back on his axis of advance. An unnecessary intermingling of blocking and counterattacking forces would also result from an attack against the nose of the enemy penetration.

(c) Line of Departure (LD). An LD is designated to ensure coordination of the attack. The area selected for the LD desirably has the following characteristics: is under control of friendly forces; provides protection from small arms and other flat-trajectory weapons; is easily recognizable on the map and on the ground; and is generally perpendicular to the direction of attack. In some instances, however, it may become necessary to sacrifice some of the desirable characteristics and have the LD coincide with the line of contact (LC). In such a case the LD is LC.

(d) Route. The route selected for the movement of the counterattack force to the LD is direct and takes maximum advantage of the defilade afforded by high ground in the area.

(e) Company Attack Positions. Company attack positions are designated by the battalion commander in his plan in the event that last minute coordination and deployment is required. Although these positions are designated, they are used only if the situation demands. Any unnecessary massing of troops with resulting delay is avoided, since it may provide the enemy with a lucrative nuclear target. The brigade normally does not designate attack positions for the battalion.

(f) Other Control Measures. The brigade commander may also use other control measures to facilitate a coordinated counterattack. Some of these measures may include check points, phase lines, contact points, a nuclear safety line (NSL), and boundaries. A time of attack may also be designated when use of nuclear fires requires a tactical damage assessment or movement of a counterattack force from covered positions to the LD.

(2) Composition of Maneuver Force.

(a) The brigade commander plans to use all uncommitted forces (except those required to block) as the maneuver force for the counterattack. The counterattack capability is not dissipated against minor enemy success. When it is launched, the counterattack force is given the means necessary to accomplish the mission. Piecemeal commitment of the counterattacking force jeopardizes the success of the entire operation. The counterattack is therefore carried out rapidly and violently, employing all of the combat power necessary to ensure success.

(b) In this situation, the use of a mechanized infantry battalion task force provides a unit possessing a high degree of mobility, shock action and firepower. To enhance the speed of the counterattack, infantrymen will ride on APC's until enemy or other action forces earlier dismounting.

(c) The brigade commander notifies division headquarters of his decision to commit his reserve and its subsequent commitment. The brigade commander also establishes a temporary reserve from such elements as may be available.

(d) In planning the counterattack, the commander designates which unit(s) will assume responsibility for the area when the penetration has been eliminated. In this case the brigade commander plans on attaching a rifle company from TF 2/79 Mech to the 2/78 Mech if the situation should require additional force on the FEBA. After the counterattack is made, the plan may be modified to meet the existing situation. Each plan is rehearsed as thoroughly as time and security permit.

b. To provide unity of command in the counterattack, friendly forces within the area of penetration are usually attached to the maneuver force. Blocking forces on the periphery of the penetration may be (but are not normally) attached to the maneuver force.

c. (1) The decision as to when to counterattack is based upon the commander's professional judgment, or, on occasion, on orders from higher headquarters. When a penetration appears imminent or has actually started, the brigade commander advises the division commander, alerts the counterattacking force, increases surveillance over the threatened area, and provides all available assistance to the subordinate commanders concerned.

(2) In the defense, it is desirable to stop or slow the penetration; however, this condition is not an essential prerequisite. The counterattack should be launched prior to the time that the attacking enemy can consolidate his gains and reorganize or regroup his forces. The brigade commander counterattacks when the enemy has seized or threatens to seize terrain essential to the defense; when the enemy otherwise seriously threatens the accomplishment of the defense mission; or when the destruction of the enemy may be facilitated.

(3) If it appears that a counterattack will not succeed, the commander employs available forces to contain the penetration and notifies the division commander.

d. Depending on the size of the penetration and the location and protection of the friendly troops, low-yield, accurately delivered nuclear weapons may be advantageously employed within the penetrated area in conjunction with a brigade counterattack. On-call nuclear fires may be employed effectively on the following: enemy forces near the nose of the penetration, at the base and shoulders of the penetration, on avenues of approach which are used to reinforce the penetration, and in enemy assembly areas; on supporting weapons areas; and/or to assist the counterattack force in breaching the penetration. In this situation, the weapons would be employed on the mass of enemy forces to assist in seizing HILL 405, which is the objective for the counterattack. All fires, whether nuclear or nonnuclear, are completely coordinated with the scheme of maneuver. Since the location of friendly blocking forces in an actual penetration may differ from that contained in the counterattack plan, modification of the plan (degree of risk, troop safety measures, etc.) may be required. Additionally, modification of the plan may be required if the use of nuclear weapons results in tree blowdown, fires, rubble, or induced radiation which limits the maneuver of the counterattack force. Frequently, when nuclear weapons are used on the periphery of a penetration, it may be desirable for the counterattack force to strike in close proximity thereto, in order to rapidly exploit the effects of the nuclear fires.

e. Normally, the responsibility for accomplishing the details of planning a counterattack is delegated to the reserve commander. The brigade commander normally designates likely penetrations, their priority for destruction, and all aspects that he desires integrated into the counterattack plan. The counterattack force commander normally performs the detailed counterattack planning in coordination with the brigade staff, and then submits his recommended plan to the brigade commander for approval.

23. TEACHING POINTS APPLICABLE:

a. A counterattack plan normally includes an assumed penetration, objective, direction of attack, line of departure, route, and other control measures deemed necessary to accomplish the mission.

b. If the situation and terrain permit, the counterattack is designed to hit the flank of the penetration and to avoid passage through friendly defensive or blocking positions.

c. Fire support, including available nuclear fires, must be carefully planned and coordinated with the scheme of maneuver.

d. A counterattack planned for an area defense normally includes restoration of the battle area.

e. The counterattack is carried out rapidly and aggressively employing all of the combat power necessary to ensure success.

f. Although company attack positions may be planned for a counterattack, they are not used unless necessary.

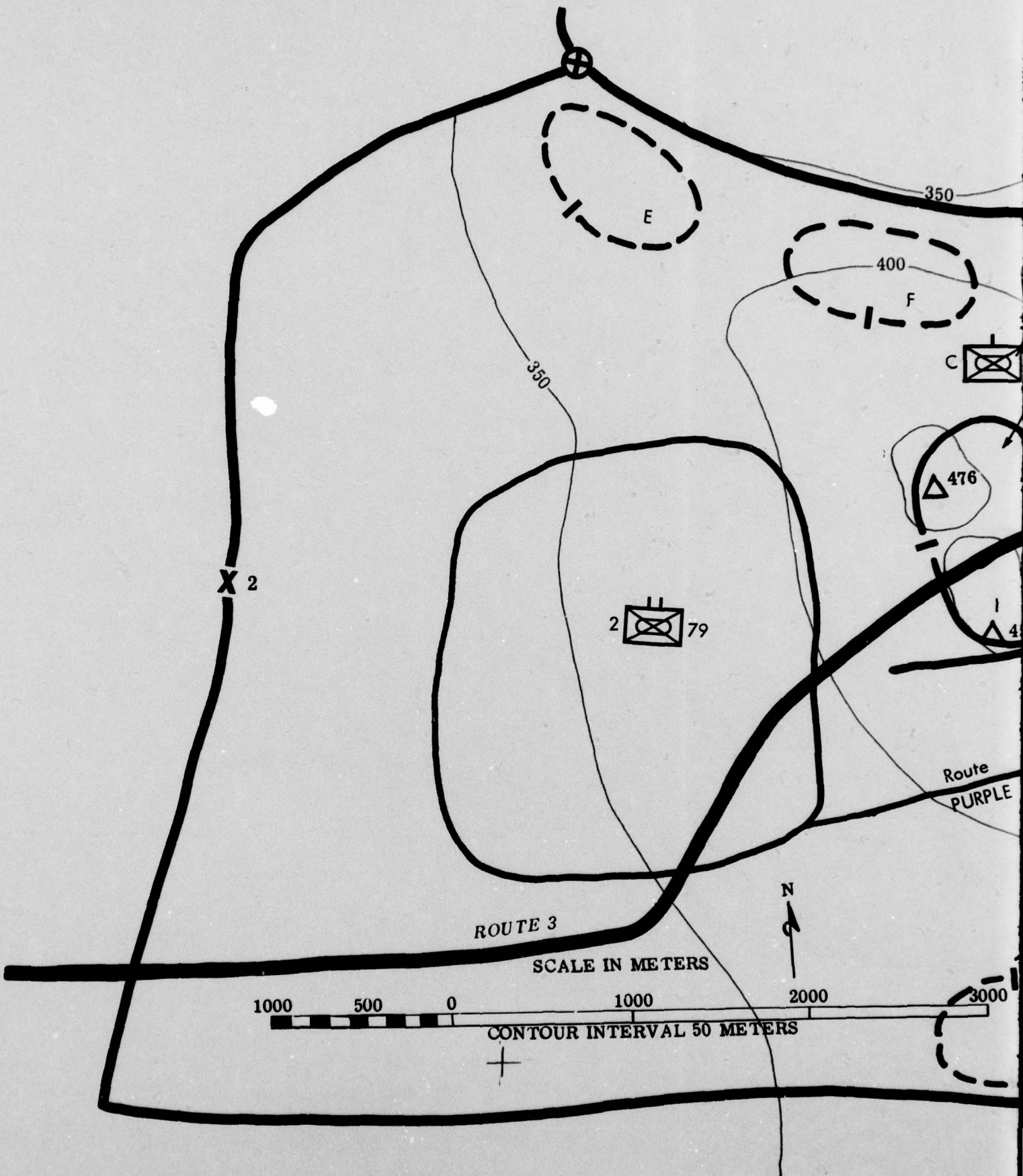
g. The brigade commander designates the unit(s) that will be prepared to defend the area once the penetration has been eliminated.

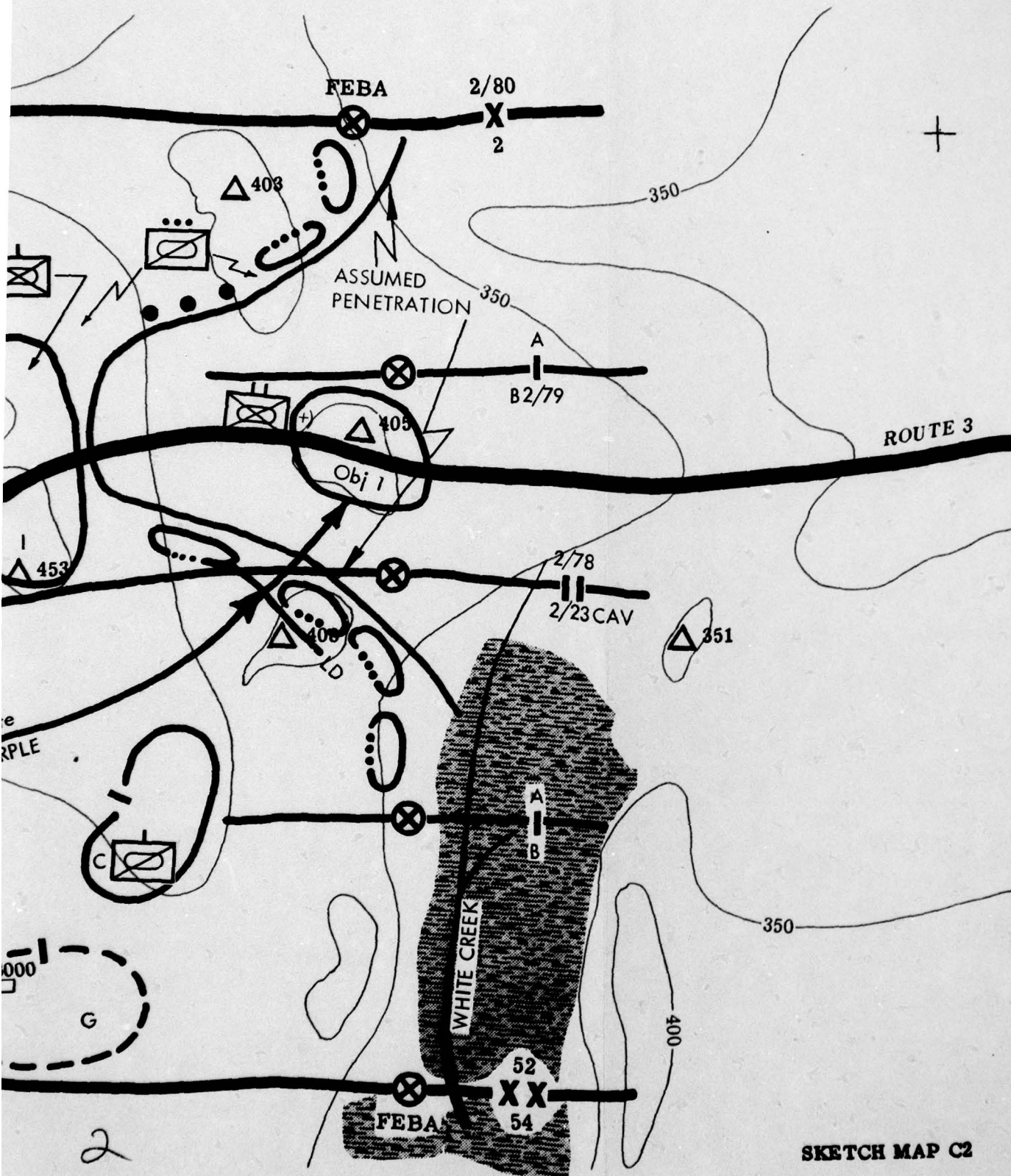
h. Counterattack plans must provide for unity of command.

i. The commander counterattacks when the enemy has seized or threatens to seize terrain essential to the defense; when the enemy otherwise threatens the accomplishment of the defense mission; or when the destruction of the enemy may be facilitated.

j. When it appears that a counterattack would not succeed, available forces are employed to contain the penetration and the next higher commander is notified of the situation.

k. Friendly forces within the area of penetration are usually attached to the maneuver force.





SKETCH MAP C2

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FUNDAMENTALS OF DEFENSIVE COMBAT AND RETROGRADE OPERATIONS 6120

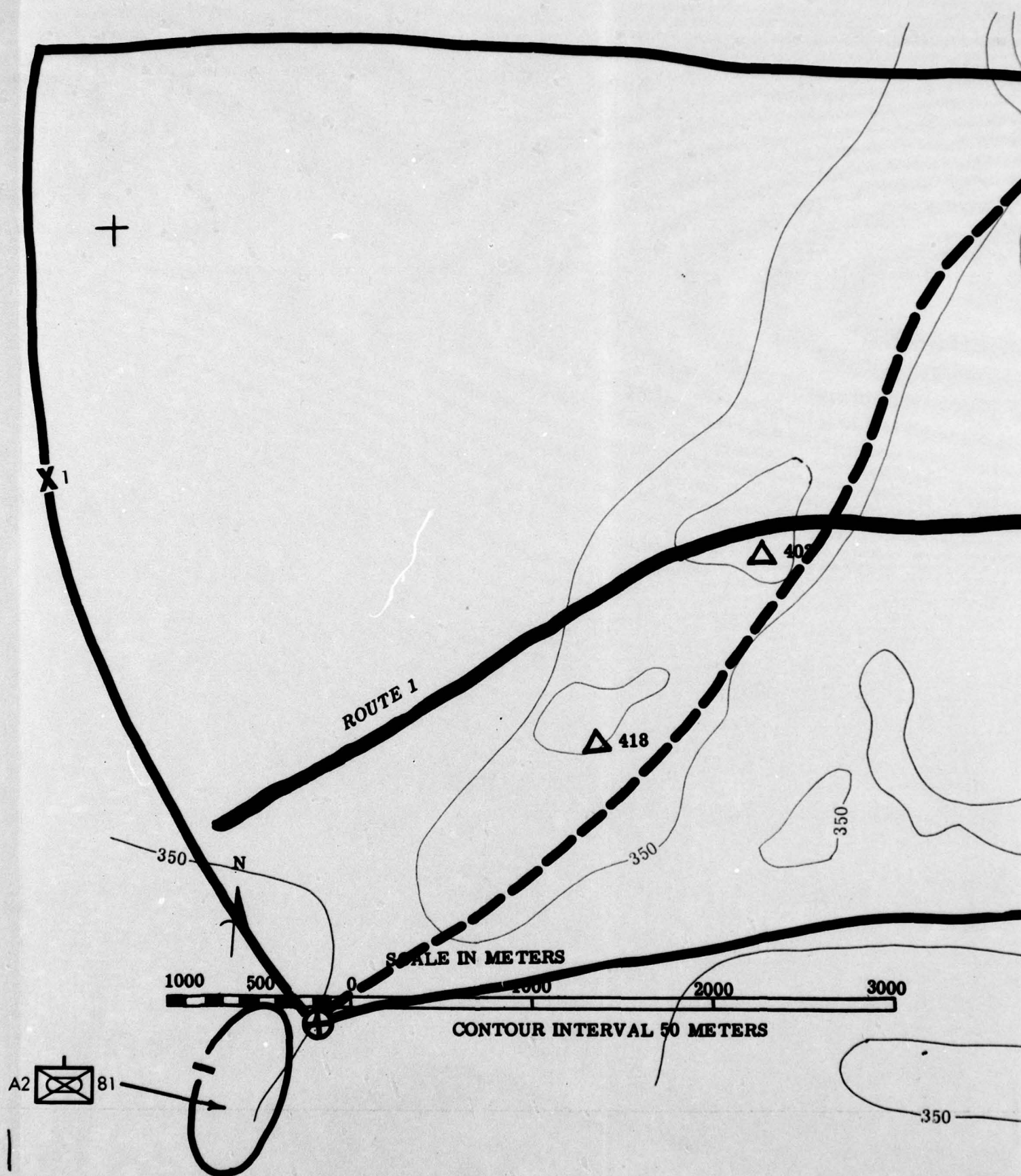
Section XI
(Sketch Map D1 to accompany)

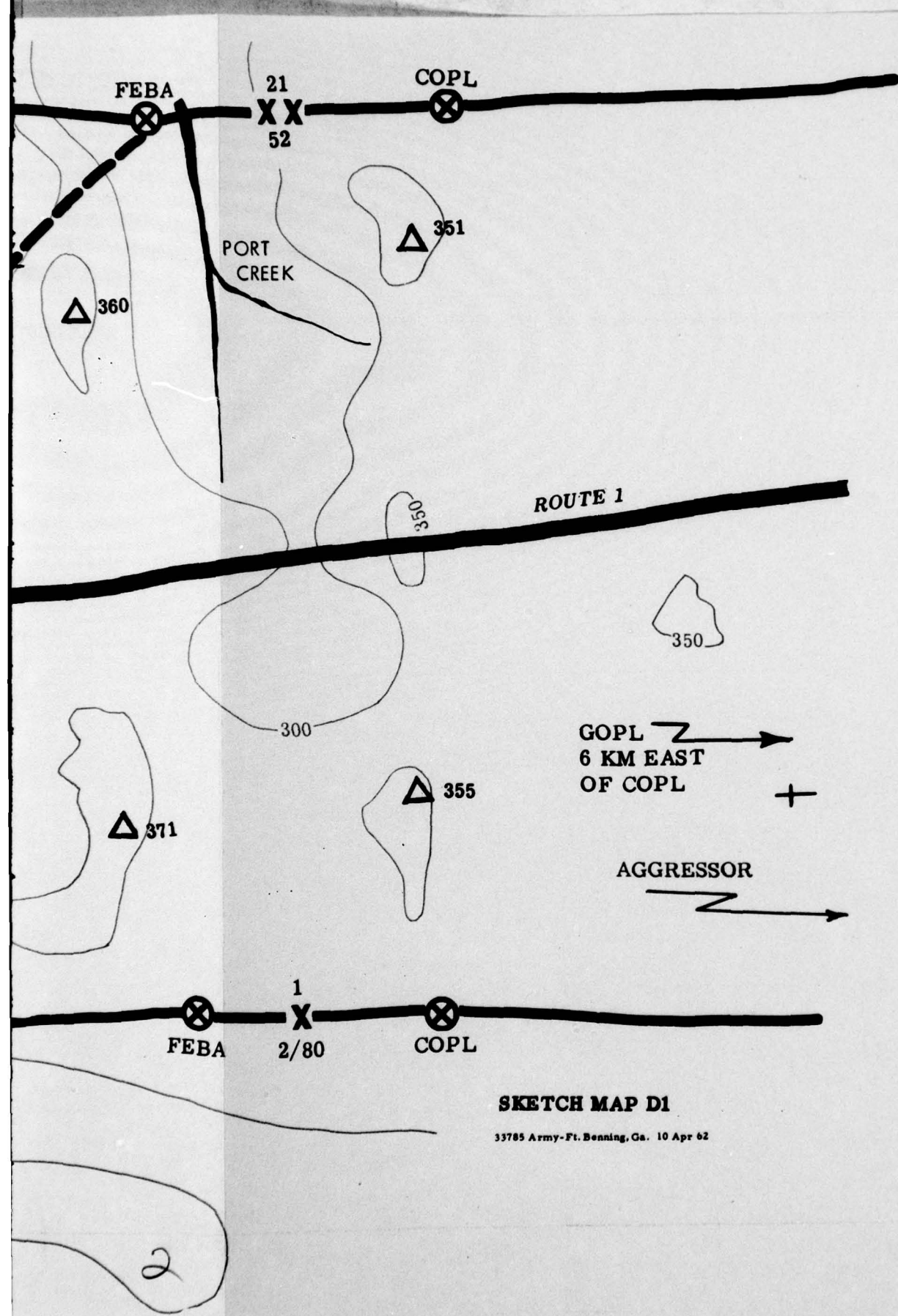
24. SITUATION CONTINUED:

- a. CG, 52d Mech Div has assigned the 1st Bde the sector as shown on Sketch Maps A and D1. The division commander has directed the 1st Bde to defend in sector and prepare to withdraw on division order to blocking positions along the HILL 418-402 Ridge as indicated by the dashed line.
- b. At this time 1st Bde has attached the 2/76 Mech, 2/77 Mech, and A2/4 Armor. 7/50 Arty is in DS of the Bde and the 3d How Bn (155mm) (SP), 616th Arty is reinforcing the fires of the DS Bn. A/52 Engr is in DS of the Bde. The brigade has been allocated four nuclear rounds for the first day of the operation.
- c. PORT Creek is fordable with difficulty to foot elements; however, the banks are steep and muddy, making them obstacles to vehicular movement. Trees in the area are scattered, and the undergrowth provides only fair concealment.

25. FIFTH REQUIREMENT: You are Col 1st Bde.

- a. Show on Sketch Map D1 your scheme of maneuver for the defense of your sector including the location of boundaries, organization of COP, location of company blocking positions on HILL 418-402 Ridge, and location of bde reserve.
- b. What missions do you assign the following:
 - (1) 2/76 Mech?
 - (2) 2/77 Mech?
 - (3) The attached tank company?
 - (4) The brigade aviation platoon?
- c. What requests do you make to CO, A/52 Engr?
- d. What allocation of artillery barrages do you make to subordinate units?
- e. What is the sequence of actions taken against the enemy from the time the general outpost is taken under fire by the enemy until 1st Bde occupies blocking positions on HILL 418-402 Ridge? (Mentally war game the conduct of the defense and be prepared to discuss the actions of GOP, COP, forward defense forces and brigade reserve.)





SKETCH MAP D1

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FUNDAMENTALS OF DEFENSIVE COMBAT AND RETROGRADE OPERATIONS 6120

Section XII
(Sketch Map D2 to Accompany)

26. SOLUTION TO FIFTH REQUIREMENT:

a. Sketch Map D2.

b. (1) 2/76 Mech:

- (a) Attach one plat to A2/4 Armor.
- (b) Prepare Positions Y and Z, in that priority.
- (c) Occupy Position Y with a co (-).
- (d) Occupy Position Z on order.

(2) 2/77 Mech:

Attached: One Plat, A2/4 Armor.

- (a) Prepare Positions X and W, in that priority.
- (b) Prepare to withdraw, on order, to Positions V, W, and X.

(3) TF A2/4 Armor:

Attached: One rifle plat, 2/76 Mech.

Attach one plat to 2/77 Mech.

TF: Brigade reserve; prepare Position V; execute counterattack plans on order.

Be prepared to occupy Positions V, W, X, Y, or Z on order.

(4) 1st Bde Aviation Platoon:

- (a) Support 2/76 Mech and 2/77 Mech with two aircraft each.
- (b) One aircraft on-call to brigade commander.
- (c) Platoon (-): Bde staff. XO coordinates usage.

c. CO, A/52 Engr: Provide assistance in construction of obstacles; preparation of company blocking Positions V, W, X, Y and Z; and maintenance of roads and bridges, in that priority.

d. Barrages of two 155 batteries and one 105 battery allocated to 2/77 Mech. Barrages of one 155 battery and two 105 batteries allocated to 2/76 Mech.

e. (1) Within its capabilities, the GOP delays and disorganizes enemy attack until forced to withdraw.

(2) Within its capabilities, the COP delays and disorganizes enemy attack until forced to withdraw.

(3) Under covering fires from forces on FEBA, COP force returns to positions behind FEBA.

(4) Enemy is subjected to increasingly heavy fires as he approaches the FEBA.

(5) Final protective fires are employed.

(6) Forces on FEBA repel enemy assault.

(7) Under cover of fires from reserve rifle companies and other elements, and when so ordered, forward companies withdraw to Positions W, X and Z and Assembly Area S.

(8) Reserve company, 2/77 Mech withdraws on order to Position V, W, or X, or Assembly Area R under cover of fire from blocking positions.

(9) Previously emplaced demolitions are detonated as appropriate during withdrawal of units.

27. DISCUSSION OF SOLUTION TO FIFTH REQUIREMENT:

a. (1) In considering the brigade missions and the division commander's concept of operation, Col 1st Bde recognized the requirement for a strong forward force to defend the assigned sector. He placed both battalions on the FEBA while retaining the tank-heavy company task force in reserve. The reserve company of 2/76 Mech is placed in a blocking position astride the most dangerous avenue of approach. In this situation it is desirable that strong battalion reserves, properly positioned, be available to cover the withdrawal of forces on division order to blocking positions to the rear. Therefore, the brigade commander has allocated a relatively large amount of combat power to the forward battalions to enable the battalions to accomplish their defense and delay mission on the FEBA and still retain an adequate reserve to counterattack, block, or reinforce forward companies as the situation may dictate. Although the brigade reserve, in this case, is relatively small, it is still sufficient to counterattack, if necessary, to extricate a heavily engaged unit on the FEBA, or to restore the FEBA.

(2) In his analysis of the terrain, Col 1st Bde recognized that there are two primary avenues of approach into his sector: ROUTE 1, and HILL 355 to HILL 418. Accordingly, he assigned each battalion the mission of defending one avenue of approach. Although ROUTE 1 was deemed the most dangerous avenue of approach, the obstacle provided by PORT Creek and the availability of good defensive terrain enables the 2/76 Mech to defend a slightly wider sector than that assigned to the 2/77 Mech. Both battalions will emplace mines and improve upon natural obstacles in their assigned sectors to assist in the accomplishment of their defensive mission. To the extent possible, all units and weapons on the FEBA are positioned and employed for mutual support. Desirably, companies are located so that, as a minimum, mutual support is obtained between companies by the fires of 81mm mortars.

(3) Forward battalions are directed to organize and control the COP as indicated by the forward extension of the boundary between them. Within their capability, battalion commanders augment the forces they employ on the COPL with tanks and antitank weapons to provide the COP with an increased capability to engage the enemy at long range with direct and indirect fires. Artillery and heavy mortar support is provided the COP from within the battle area.

(4) In the event that the division commander orders occupation of the blocking positions in order to canalize the enemy into the center of the division sector, Col 1st Bde plans for occupation of Positions Y and Z by 2/76 Mech, and Positions V, W, and X by 2/77 Mech. One company of 2/76 Mech withdraws behind HILL 402 on order, or may occupy one of the blocking positions if necessary. Responsibility for preparation of these positions is assigned as follows: 2/76 Mech, Positions Y and Z; 2/77 Mech, Positions W and X; TF A2/4 Armor, Position V.

(5) The brigade will, within the division commander's concept, accomplish its mission by a combination of area defense and delaying action. However, regardless of how the defense is organized and conducted, the commander will ensure that the entire unit is positioned and prepared to stay on its initial position if a changed situation so demands. The assignment of a delaying mission should not of itself engender a mental attitude of "looking to the rear", since a change in the enemy situation may well require that the delaying unit be given a new mission, such as area defense. Armored personnel carriers normally remain with organic platoons, if practicable. This allows units in delaying action to move quickly to other positions and affords them a degree of protection against some fires during the move.

b. (1) and (2). Both forward battalions are assigned sectors within which they are expected to organize area defense positions. Additionally, they are assigned the mission of preparing an equitable part of the blocking positions to the rear. They are prepared to fight initially, and until ordered otherwise, from positions along the FEBA. When so ordered, they are prepared to withdraw to the positions previously prepared, along what will become the forward edge of a new defensive position.

(3) In view of the lack of natural obstacles and the good avenue of approach into the southern part of the brigade sector, the commander attaches a portion of the available tanks to 2/77 Mech to provide it with increased combat power. In this case the battalion commander might well employ the platoon by attaching it to one of the forward companies of the battalion. Because of their ability to deliver high explosive, antitank, and machinegun fire from extreme to point-blank range, the tanks represent a considerable increase in the defensive capabilities of the company to which they will be attached. Additionally, due to their armor protection, these weapons are ideally suited to assist elements in the withdrawal to subsequent blocking positions. The tanks help provide an integrated antitank defense. When tanks and antitank weapons are employed on the FEBA, the employment of these weapons is closely integrated to provide the best possible defense against armor. In determining how best to exploit the capabilities of each weapon, the commander considers the mission, enemy, forces available, and the terrain. Particular emphasis is given to avenues of approach favorable to armor, observation, and fields of fire. Consideration must be given to the fact that wire-guided missiles cannot be employed in heavily wooded terrain; this is not as great a limiting factor for tanks.

(4) As a matter of high priority, at least a portion of the aircraft of the aviation platoon will be used by the brigade and subordinate commanders and staffs for command and control purposes. It is stressed, however, that the helicopters are capable of performing numerous missions in the defense, and the commander concerned employs available aircraft for performing those missions which he considers to be of greatest importance to the successful accomplishment of his mission. Typical missions for the brigade aircraft, in addition to

command and control in the defense, include wire laying, radio relay, messenger and/or courier service, movement of small items of supply, movement of small patrols, reconnaissance, observation, limited aerial surveillance, target acquisition, adjustment of fires, radiological survey, limited fire support, and aeromedical evacuation. Additional aircraft required by the brigade for tactical missions are requested through division G3 or per division SOP.

c. A/52 Engr is assigned a direct support mission by division, rather than being attached, because the over-all division engineer requirement is quite large and a coordinated effort under centralized control is required. Engineers are used in the defense primarily to maintain roads and bridges, prepare obstacles, execute demolitions, assist in constructing minefields, assist in preparation of positions, and perform other engineer tasks. They furnish technical assistance and tools to infantry units which have need of such assistance. It must be realized that with the large areas involved, much of the actual construction-type work will, of necessity, be completed by infantry units, assisted by available engineers.

d. The plan for the employment of supporting artillery fire is made at a conference between the commander of the supporting artillery and the brigade commander. Consideration is given to the request for supporting fire from battalions occupying defensive areas. The plan for the employment of artillery fires in support of defensive combat must normally provide for:

- (1) Long-range fires to inflict maximum casualties and disorganize the enemy.
- (2) Fires in support of the combat outpost to include support of its withdrawal.
- (3) Fires on possible enemy approaches and assembly areas.
- (4) Concentrations and barrages to break up the enemy attack after it is launched.

(5) Fires within the battle area to assist in containing penetrations and to support the counterattack in restoration of the FEBA. The brigade commander prescribes the allocation of the barrages available and, if appropriate, the priority of fires during the various phases of the defense. In all cases, the artillery will prepare plans to provide continuous support throughout the sequence of actions described in paragraph e below. In this case the brigade commander allocated the barrages of DS and reinforcing artillery units to forward battalions as follows: The 2/77 Mech received a larger allocation (barrages of two 155 batteries and one 105 battery) than did the 2/76 Mech (barrages of two 105 batteries and one 155 battery); this was done since the brigade commander determined that battalion missions, the terrain, and the forces available, required weighting the artillery effort in the south.

e. In order to understand fully how the fundamentals and techniques of defense outlined above are applied, it is important to consider the sequence of actions which occurs from the initial enemy attack on the GOP to the occupation of blocking positions V, W, X, Y and Z by the 1st Bde. This sequence of action is as follows:

(1) Initially, the GOP force, TF 2/23 Cav, takes the enemy under fire at long range to inflict casualties, thereby delaying, disorganizing and deceiving the enemy attack. Should the enemy attempt to close on the GOPL in force, TF 2/23 Cav may withdraw to avoid decisive combat. A delaying action is then conducted by TF 2/23 Cav.

(2) When the GOP is forced to withdraw, the enemy is taken under fire by the COP at long range to further delay and disorganize the enemy advance and deceive him as to the true location of the battle area.

(3) When the COP has accomplished its mission, or to prevent its capture or destruction, it withdraws from the position. The brigade and battalion commanders normally delegate to company commanders the authority to withdraw forces from their portion of the COPL. However, company commanders must give the higher commander timely notice of the intent to withdraw. Supporting fires are placed on the enemy to cover the withdrawal of units from the COPL.

(4) The enemy is subjected to increasingly heavy fires as he approaches the FEBA. If enemy tanks are employed, all available fires are delivered to force tanks to button up and to separate infantry from tank elements. If the enemy employs APC's, these are subjected to all types of direct and indirect fires.

(5) When the enemy approaches the FEBA and begins his assault, final protective fires are called for (normally by platoon leaders of forward platoons) to repel the assault.

(6) If the enemy assault continues, forces on the FEBA place all available fires on the enemy, and, depending upon the situation, local counterattacks may be conducted to restore the FEBA.

(7) Upon order of the division commander, the brigade orders the battalions to withdraw companies to blocking positions to the rear. Movement of forward companies to the rear is made under cover of fires from the reserve companies and any other fires available.

(8) The reserve company of 2/77 Mech withdraws under cover of fires from units occupying blocking positions. It moves to Position V or, if Position V had already been occupied by another unit, to Assembly Area R, as previously designated. It may also be required to move to Position W or X, on order.

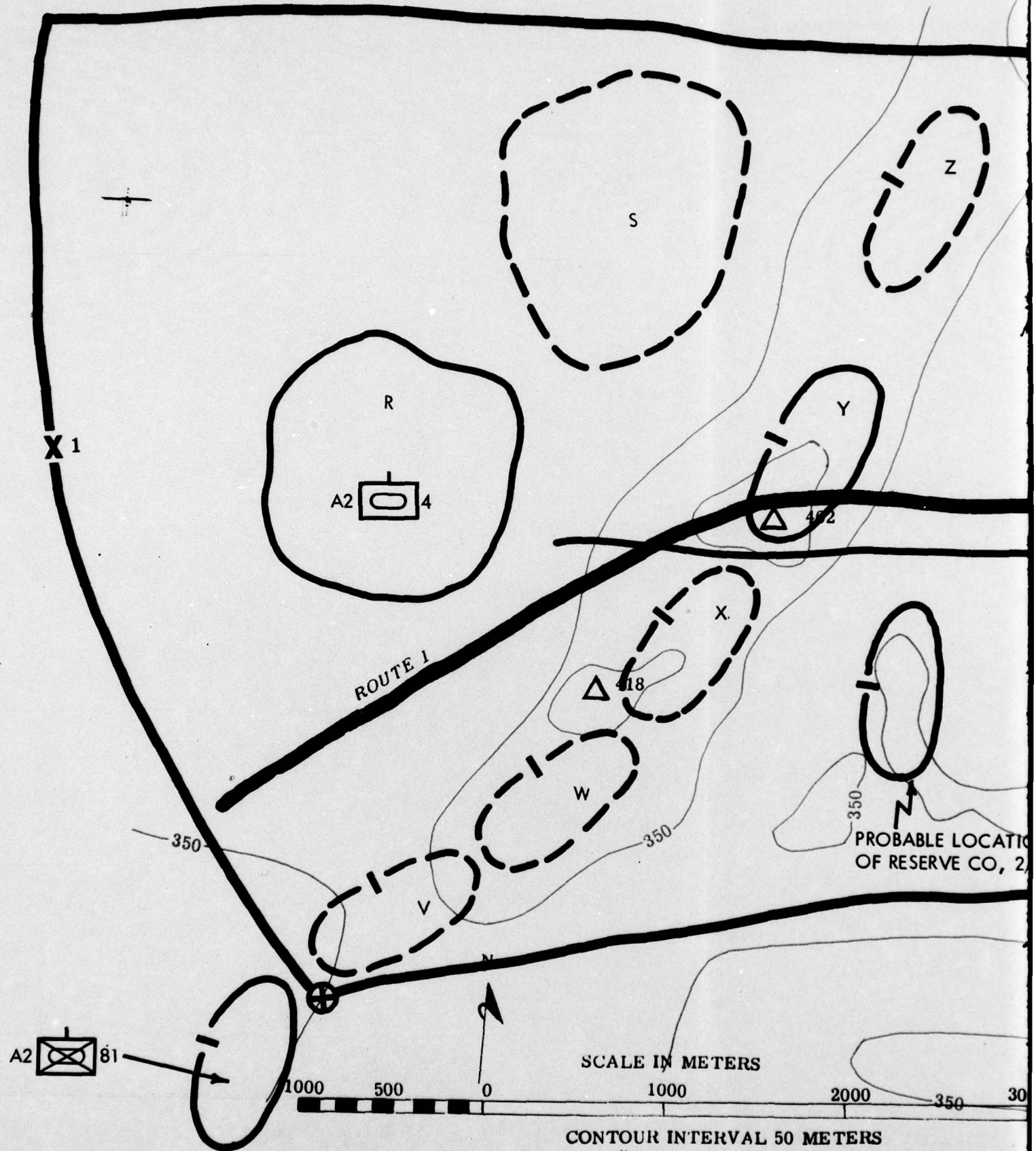
(9) Previously emplaced demolitions of all types are detonated at all defensive echelons to assist the withdrawal of friendly elements, delay the enemy advance, and inflict maximum punishment on the enemy. Close air support is used to the maximum extent practicable.

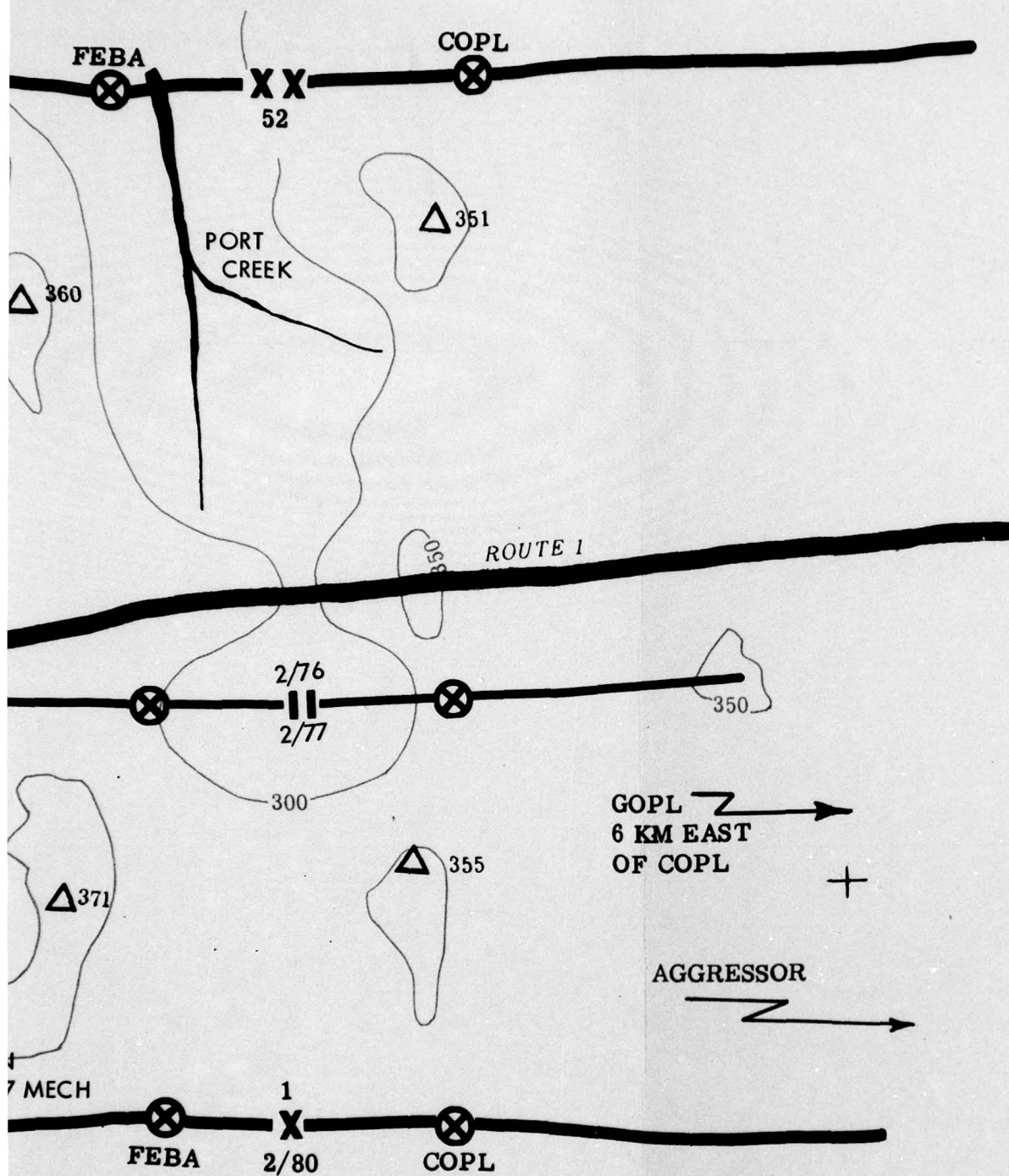
28. TEACHING POINTS APPLICABLE:

a. When tanks and antitank weapons are employed on the FEBA, their employment is closely integrated to provide the best possible defense against armor.

b. The brigade commander normally delegates to forward battalion commanders the control of and authority to withdraw from their portion of the COPL; however, battalion commanders must give the brigade commander timely notice of the intent to withdraw.

c. It is desirable that all units and weapons on the FEBA be located and employed so that they can render mutual support.





SKETCH MAP D2

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FUNDAMENTALS OF DEFENSIVE COMBAT AND RETROGRADE OPERATIONS 6120

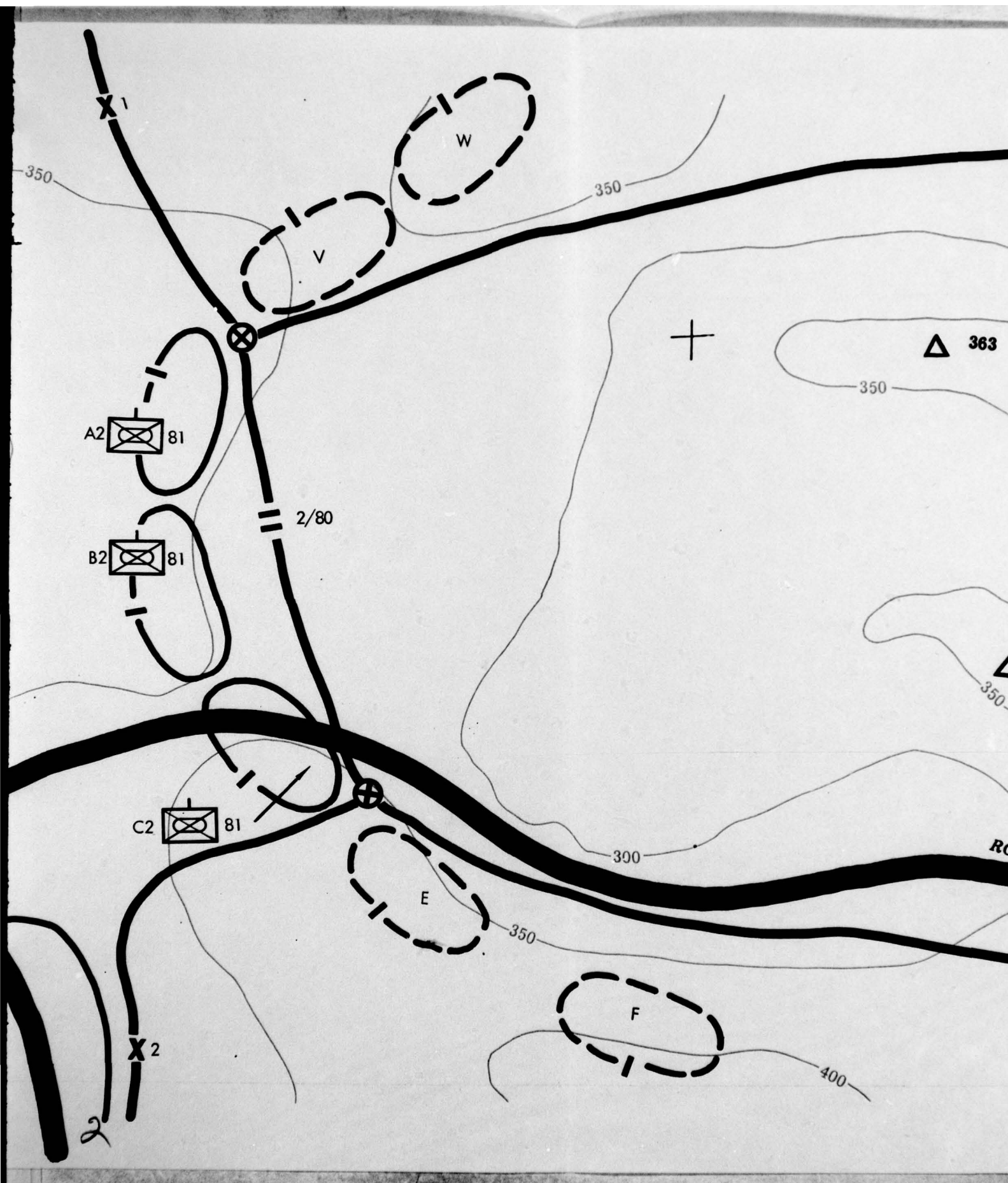
Section XIII
(Sketch Map E1 to accompany)

29. SITUATION CONTINUED:

a. The division commander has ordered TF 2/81 Mech to occupy blocking positions as shown on Sketch Map E1. (At this time TF 2/81 Mech consists of 2/81 Mech and A2/6 Armor.) TF 2/81 Mech is also given a contingency mission to occupy, on order, perimeter positions around HILL 483.

b. The division commander has also directed CO, 3d Bde, to prepare and, on division order, occupy a perimeter around HILL 483 with a battalion task force, in the event that TF 2/81 Mech cannot hold the nose of the enemy penetration. Accordingly, CO, 3d Bde has assigned to TF 2/82 (C2/82 Mech and B2/5 Armor) a contingency mission of occupying, on order, a perimeter around HILL 483 in the event it appears enemy pressure will not permit TF 2/81 Mech to hold the nose of the penetration. If this occurs, A2/6 Armor would be attached to TF 2/82 Mech. Further, TF 2/6 Armor has been advised that one of its infantry-heavy company task forces may be required to occupy a portion of the perimeter if the situation so requires. TF 2/82 Mech is ordered to select and prepare the perimeter positions and will receive support from the division engineers in their preparation.

30. SIXTH REQUIREMENT: You are S3, TF 2/82 Mech. Show on Sketch Map E1 the location of company positions required for establishment of a perimeter around HILL 483.



FEBA



363

△ 365

350

ROUTE 2



FEBA

SEKTC MAP E1

3

33785 Army-Ft. Benning, Ga. 10 Apr 62

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Section XIV
(Sketch Map E2 to accompany)

31. SOLUTION AND DISCUSSION OF SOLUTION TO SIXTH REQUIREMENT:

a. Sketch Map E2.

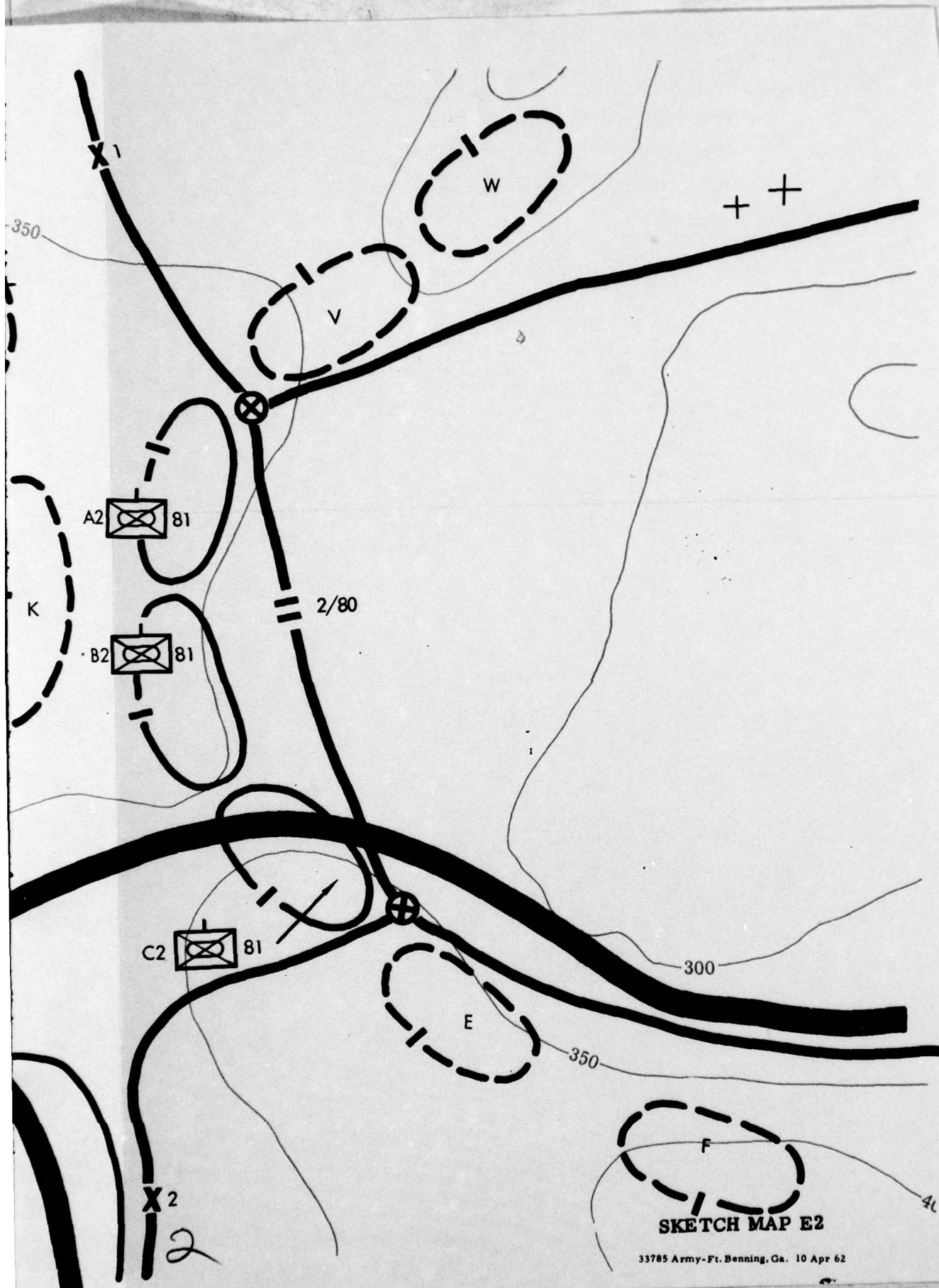
b. (1) In the preparation of a defensive position, consideration must be given to the preparation of alternate and supplementary positions. These positions will assist in providing all-around defense, defense in depth, and flexibility. The battalion occupying a defensive position must be prepared to refuse its flanks or to occupy a perimeter when forced to do so by enemy action. Since the occupation of a perimeter increases nuclear vulnerability, it is occupied only as a last resort. Should the enemy withdraw after forcing the battalion to occupy the perimeter, the battalion normally follows the enemy withdrawal and, if possible, re-establishes the original defense position.

(2) In this situation, supplementary positions are prepared in the form of a perimeter. In the event that a refusal of the flanks, rather than occupation of the perimeter, is necessary, TF 2/82 Mech (C2/82 Mech, B2/5 Armor, and A2/6 Armor) would be ordered to occupy Positions O, K and N. Dependent on enemy action, and on division order, it would occupy Positions K, M and L. Should the division commander direct TF 2/81 Mech to occupy the perimeter, Co A would occupy Position M; Co B would occupy Position K; and Co C would move to Position L. A2/6 Armor would occupy an assembly area vicinity HILL 483. Blocking Positions K, O, and N would be occupied in the event that a refusal of the flank, rather than a complete occupation of the perimeter, becomes necessary. In this situation the division commander will prescribe the time of movement to and from the supplementary positions.

32. TEACHING POINTS APPLICABLE:

a. In the defense, a battalion must be prepared to refuse one or both flanks or to occupy a perimeter when forced to do so by enemy action.

b. In the event that the enemy withdraws after forcing a battalion to occupy a perimeter, the battalion follows the enemy withdrawal and, if possible, re-establishes the original defense positions.



SKETCH MAP E2

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FUNDAMENTALS OF DEFENSIVE COMBAT AND RETROGRADE OPERATIONS 6120

Section XV
(Sketch Map F to Accompany)

33. SITUATION CONTINUED:

a. In accordance with the division commander's concept for the mobile defense of this area, the maneuver battalions attached to 3d Bde have been positioned as shown on Sketch Map F in preparation for their commitment as counterattack forces. (2/80 Mech is attached to 3d Bde following its withdrawal behind HILL 483.) The brigade has been organized for combat as shown below:

TF 2/5 Armor

C2/5 Armor
A2/79 Mech

TF 2/4 Armor

B2/4 Armor
C2/4 Armor
B2/82 Mech

TF 2/82 Mech

C2/82 Mech
B2/5 Armor

TF 2/6 Armor

B2/6 Armor
C2/6 Armor
A2/82 Mech

2/80 Mech

A, B, C2/80 Mech

b. 7/52 Arty will be in direct support upon commitment of the brigade. 3d How Bn (155mm) (SP), 616th Arty reinforces the DS Arty bn. C/52 Engr will be in DS upon commitment of the Bde.

c. As directed the 3d Bde has prepared a plan to seize HILLS 371, 363, and 365 by an attack from the north and south and to destroy the enemy. To accomplish this, the brigade commander, who does the detailed planning for this operation, has assigned the following missions:

TF 2/5 Armor:	Seize Obj RED and destroy enemy in zone
TF 2/4 Armor:	Seize Obj WHITE and destroy enemy in zone
TF 2/6 Armor:	Seize Obj BLUE and destroy enemy in zone
TF 2/82 Mech:	Seize Obj GREEN and destroy enemy in zone
2/80 Mech:	Initially bde reserve; follow TF 2/4 Armor; be prepared to

assist in seizure of Obj RED or WHITE.

d. The division commander has directed that following the counterattack and on division order 2/80 Mech will be detached from 3d Bde and 1st Bde, 2/80 Mech, and 2d Bde will re-occupy initial positions on the FEBA. However, all units are directed to be prepared to attack forward of the FEBA on division order.

34. SEVENTH REQUIREMENT: You are S3, 3d Bde. What are some of the problem areas to be considered in the preparation for and conduct of the counterattack?

Command and Staff Department
UNITED STATES ARMY INFANTRY SCHOOL
Fort Benning, Georgia

FUNDAMENTALS OF DEFENSIVE COMBAT AND RETROGRADE OPERATIONS 6120

Section XV
(Sketch Map F to Accompany)

33. SITUATION CONTINUED:

a. In accordance with the division commander's concept for the mobile defense of this area, the maneuver battalions attached to 3d Bde have been positioned as shown on Sketch Map F in preparation for their commitment as counterattack forces. (2/80 Mech is attached to 3d Bde following its withdrawal behind HILL 483.) The brigade has been organized for combat as shown below:

TF 2/5 Armor

C2/5 Armor
A2/79 Mech

TF 2/4 Armor

B2/4 Armor
C2/4 Armor
B2/82 Mech

TF 2/82 Mech

C2/82 Mech
B2/5 Armor

TF 2/6 Armor

B2/6 Armor
C2/6 Armor
A2/82 Mech

2/80 Mech

A, B, C2/80 Mech

b. 7/52 Arty will be in direct support upon commitment of the brigade. 3d How Bn (155mm) (SP), 616th Arty reinforces the DS Arty bn. C/52 Engr will be in DS upon commitment of the Bde.

c. As directed the 3d Bde has prepared a plan to seize HILLS 371, 363, and 365 by an attack from the north and south and to destroy the enemy. To accomplish this, the brigade commander, who does the detailed planning for this operation, has assigned the following missions:

TF 2/5 Armor:	Seize Obj RED and destroy enemy in zone
TF 2/4 Armor:	Seize Obj WHITE and destroy enemy in zone
TF 2/6 Armor:	Seize Obj BLUE and destroy enemy in zone
TF 2/82 Mech:	Seize Obj GREEN and destroy enemy in zone
2/80 Mech:	Initially bde reserve; follow TF 2/4 Armor; be prepared to

assist in seizure of Obj RED or WHITE.

d. The division commander has directed that following the counterattack and on division order 2/80 Mech will be detached from 3d Bde and 1st Bde, 2/80 Mech, and 2d Bde will re-occupy initial positions on the FEBA. However, all units are directed to be prepared to attack forward of the FEBA on division order.

34. SEVENTH REQUIREMENT: You are S3, 3d Bde. What are some of the problem areas to be considered in the preparation for and conduct of the counterattack?

Command and Staff Department
US ARMY
Fort Benning, Georgia

REQUIREMENTS OF THE ARMY COMMAND AND STAFF DEPARTMENT

Section 1
General

SECTION 1. GENERAL

1.1. The purpose of this document is to provide a general overview of the requirements of the Army Command and Staff Department. This document is intended for use by all personnel assigned to the Army Command and Staff Department.

1.2. The purpose of this document is to provide a general overview of the requirements of the Army Command and Staff Department. This document is intended for use by all personnel assigned to the Army Command and Staff Department.

1.3. The purpose of this document is to provide a general overview of the requirements of the Army Command and Staff Department. This document is intended for use by all personnel assigned to the Army Command and Staff Department.

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SECTION 2. GENERAL

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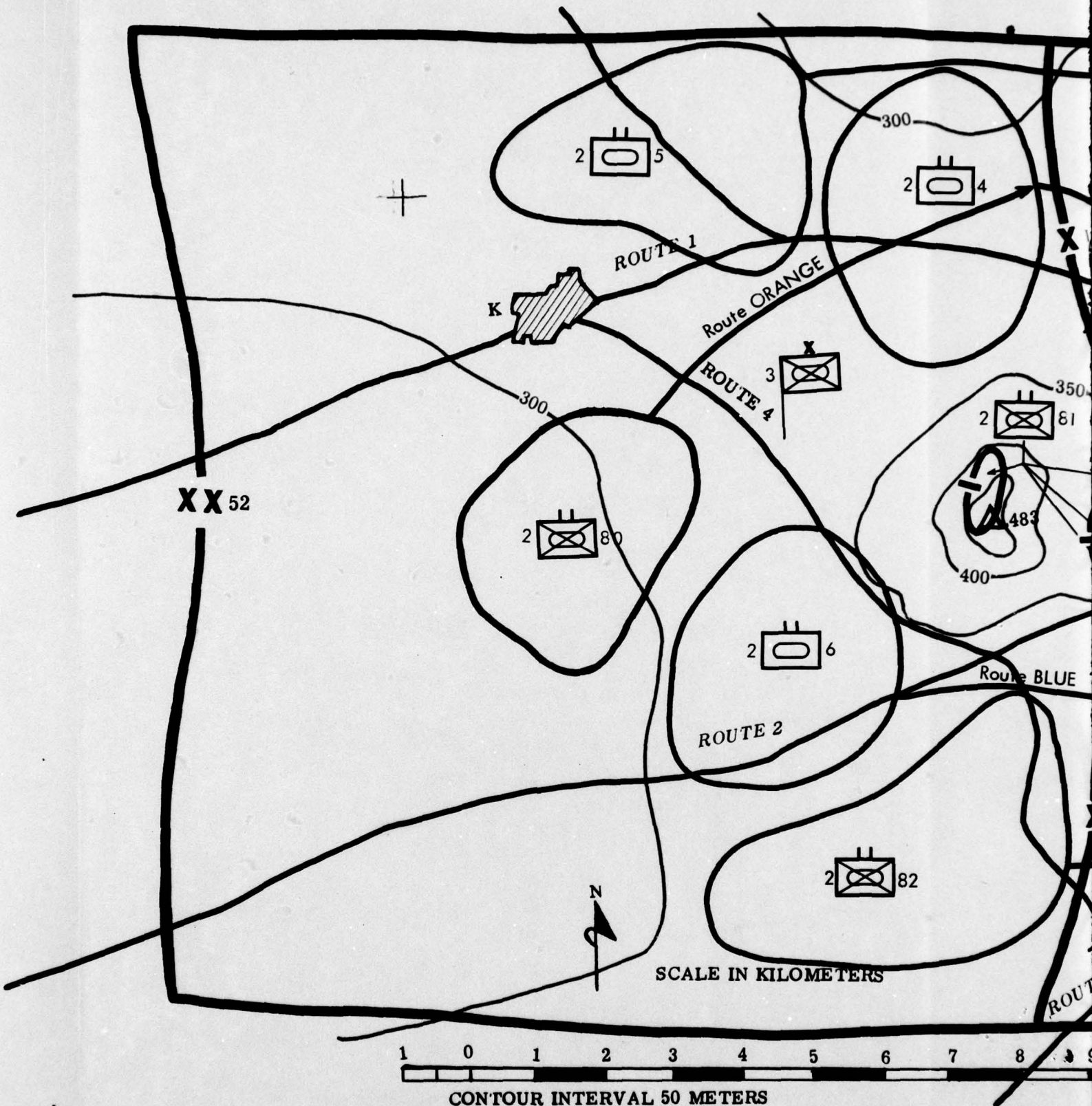
2.2. The purpose of this document is to provide a general overview of the requirements of the Army Command and Staff Department. This document is intended for use by all personnel assigned to the Army Command and Staff Department.

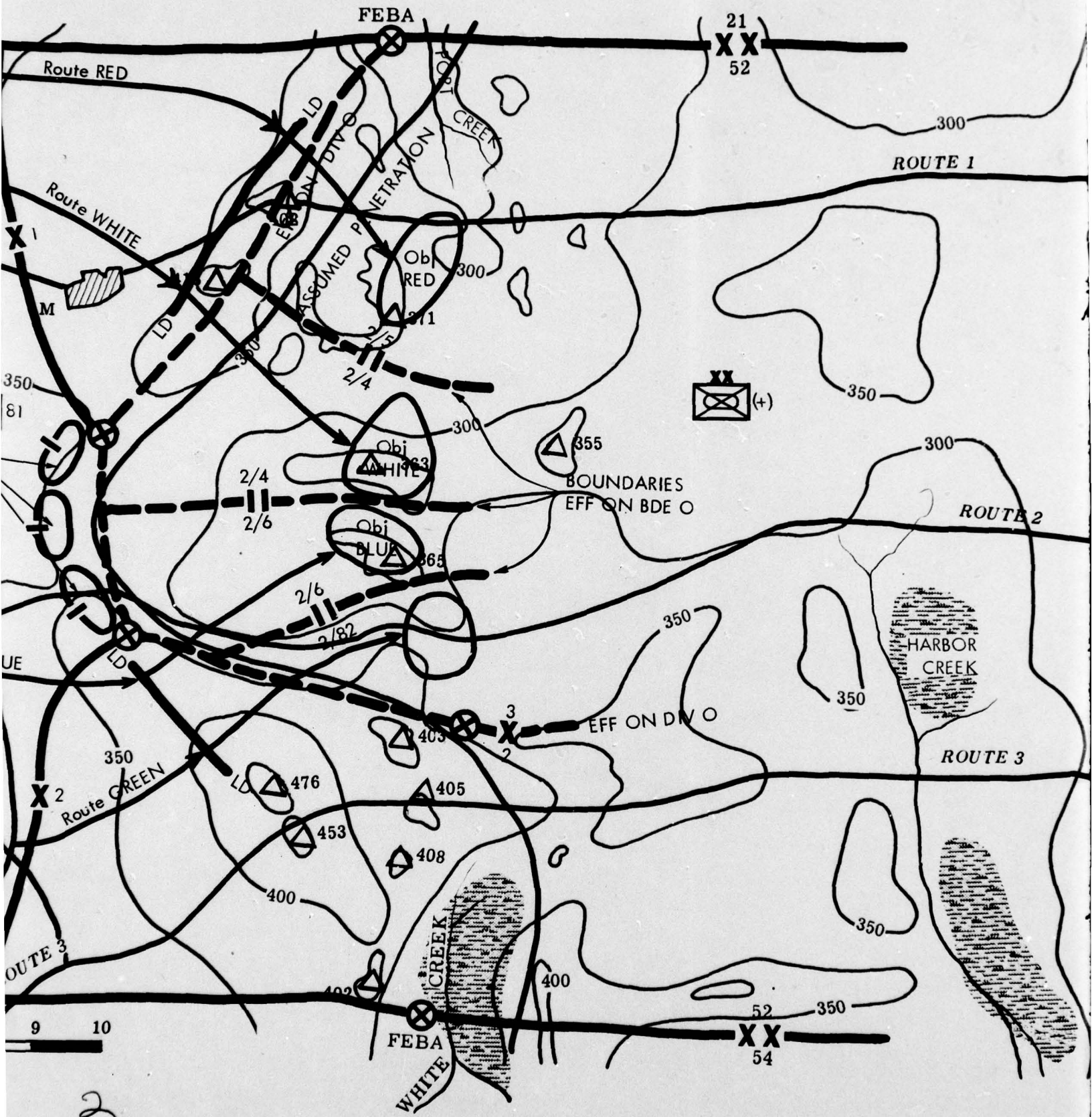
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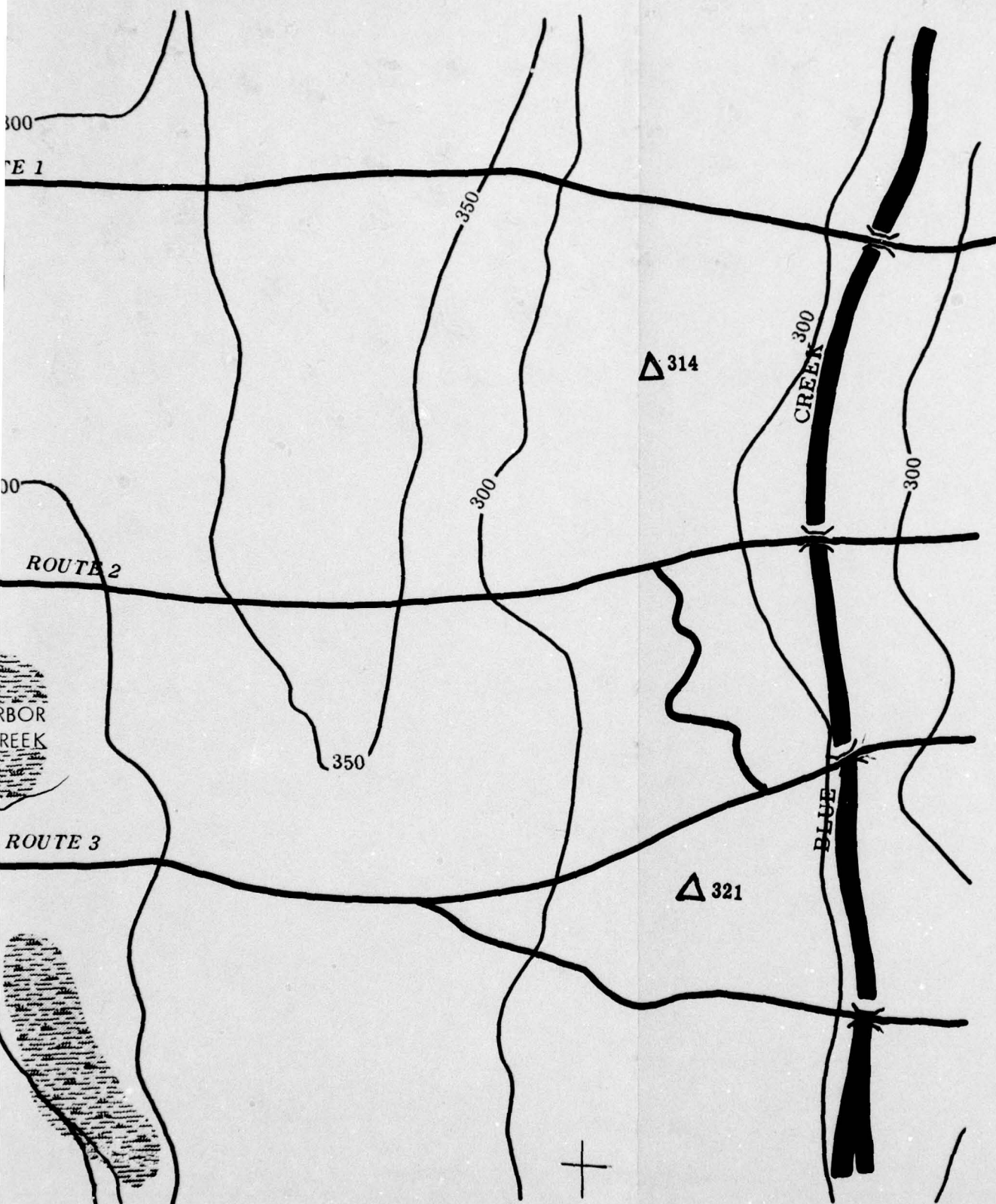
2.4. The purpose of this document is to provide a general overview of the requirements of the Army Command and Staff Department. This document is intended for use by all personnel assigned to the Army Command and Staff Department.

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SKETCH MAP F

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Fort Benning, Georgia

FUNDAMENTALS OF DEFENSIVE COMBAT AND RETROGRADE OPERATIONS 6120

Section XVI

35. SOLUTION TO SEVENTH REQUIREMENT: Some of the problem areas which are considered in the preparation for the conduct of the counterattack are as follows:

- a. Coordination of maneuver with blocking forces, counterattacking forces, and fire support agencies.
- b. Integration and control of armor and mechanized infantry elements in movement to LD and attack to the objective.
- c. Execution of counterattack at night.
- d. Nuclear tree-blowdown, fires, rubble, and contamination if nuclear weapons are employed.
- e. Dispersal of forces to preclude presenting a lucrative nuclear target.
- f. Rehearsal of counterattack plans.
- g. Detailed planning for the destruction of the enemy and seizure of the objectives.

36. DISCUSSION OF SOLUTION TO SEVENTH REQUIREMENT:

a. (1) In preparing plans to participate in the division counterattack, the brigade commander and his staff consider all of the possible problem areas which might hinder a successful counterattack. In his estimate of the situation, the commander considers the close coordination required between the maneuvering force, blocking forces, and fire support agencies and prepares plans to effect this coordination. The timing of the attack will also have to be closely coordinated to ensure that the maximum speed, violence and surprise are obtained to exploit the confusion already present among attacking enemy elements. When nuclear fires are employed, time may be required for a tactical damage assessment and movement of the counterattacking force from covered positions. The location of planned obstacles within the rear and forward defense areas must be closely coordinated with the counterattack plan. Insofar as practicable, maneuver forces avoid passage through friendly defensive positions.

(2) The movement of armor and mechanized infantry elements to the LD and in the attack to the objective must be carefully planned and coordinated to prevent undue exposure to enemy nuclear attack. Although movement to the line of departure will be on multiple routes, traffic must be closely controlled to preclude delay in movement. By employing predesignated battalion task forces with each specifying a detailed order of movement out of assembly areas, attacking elements can move quickly to the line of departure. Battalion plans must include the formations to be employed by tanks and infantry. Normally, tanks will lead in the counterattack followed by mechanized infantry units which remain mounted until anti-armor fires force their dismounting. However, on occasion, heavy antitank fires from the enemy or obstacles may require counterattacking tanks and dismounted infantry to move as an integrated force or with dismounted infantry leading. Engineer support may be required to improve routes to be used by the counterattacking force.

(3) In the event that the counterattack is made at night, illumination may be provided by mortar or artillery illuminating shells, parachute flares delivered by air, searchlights from the corps artillery searchlight battery, tank-mounted searchlights, and other means available to defending units. Since control problems will be magnified in a night counterattack, detailed attention must be given to night recognition procedures, assignment of clearly defined objectives, and control of attacking elements. It should be noted that illumination is required for effective employment of battalion antitank weapons.

(4) The commander must consider the advisability of employing nuclear weapons in the counterattack. Although the weapons effects can facilitate the counterattack by destroying massed enemy forces, the resulting tree-blowdown, fires, rubble, or possible nuclear contamination may prevent accomplishment of the mission. Care must be taken to ensure that friendly forces are not exposed to their effects, including the causing of flash blindness (dazzle). The effects of nuclear weapons (except for dazzle) should not extend beyond the unit boundary. Since the counterattack in the mobile defense is designed to destroy the enemy, the commander must carefully weigh the problems outlined above against the advantage of using nuclear weapons in the counterattack.

(5) In preparing counterattack plans, the commander must analyze his scheme of maneuver to ensure that friendly forces are not massed to present a lucrative nuclear target. Two critical periods in the counterattack are the time of passage through blocking forces, if such passage is required, and the time immediately following seizure of the objective. During these periods, particular emphasis must be placed on maximum dispersion consistent with the accomplishment of the mission. If the counterattack is launched with speed, aggressiveness, and surprise, the danger of presenting a nuclear target is reduced.

(6) Consistent with the time available and the requirement for security, counterattack plans are rehearsed by participating troops. As a minimum, reconnaissance and rehearsal by key participating personnel are accomplished. When the counterattack is executed, it will frequently be necessary to modify plans to meet the existing situation. In this regard, although counterattack plans are prepared well in advance, in many cases the counterattack will of necessity be launched under conditions other than those planned. Planning must therefore provide for a high degree of flexibility.

(7) (a) In the mobile defense, where the primary emphasis is placed on destruction of the enemy, the counterattack force commander, and particularly the battalion and company commanders, must make specific plans for destruction of the enemy. They must not be led into the error of directing their attack to seize a terrain objective and give lesser importance to the mission of destroying the enemy.

(b) In this situation the counterattack force commander (CO 3d Bde) prepared the detailed plans for the counterattack and assigned directions of attack and objectives for designated battalion task forces to seize. He also assigned zones of responsibility to each of the four attacking bn TFs. By assigning a direction of attack, the bde CO ensures a closely coordinated scheme of maneuver which will assist in preventing a collision of attacking forces. Since a direction of attack indicates the specific direction or route which the center of mass of the unit will follow, this does not mean that the entire battalion TF moves in a single column along a single route. Units may be located to the right and left of the direction of attack as required to destroy the enemy. By assigning zones of action, the bde CO ensures specific delineation of area responsibility and also ensures that adjacent attacking units will not fire on each other. The order directing each bn TF to "destroy enemy in zone" will further ensure proper emphasis on destruction of the enemy. The boundaries designated would be effective when attacking units cross the LD; however, they may be adjusted if the situation demands. A series of random-numbered check-points, keyed to easily identified terrain features, may enable the commander to rapidly shift boundaries.

(c) In order to allow attacking units to obtain supporting fires from blocking units, task force commanders will use radio, panels, and pyrotechnic signals to indicate location of attacking units.

(d) If objectives are seized and enemy forces remain between blocking forces and counterattack forces on their objectives, specific measures must be taken to eliminate the encircled enemy forces. In this situation the 2/80 Mech will follow TF 2/4 Armor and should be available for what essentially amounts to a follow and support role. The 2/80 Mech must be prepared to assist in clearing bypassed enemy forces since it is probable that the counter-attacking battalions will be otherwise engaged following seizure of their assigned objectives.

(e) Terrain objectives are assigned to attacking units so that their seizure will prevent a reinforcement of the enemy penetration. When such key terrain is seized, its seizure isolates remaining enemy units to facilitate their later destruction but, more importantly, it prevents the following enemy reserve units from moving into the area of penetration. Seizure of key terrain as indicated on Sketch Map F will provide the friendly forces with an advantage in observation and fields of fire and will also enable them to control routes in the area critical to friendly and enemy forces.

(f) The important point to remember in a counterattack in the mobile defense is that encircled enemy forces cannot be dismissed lightly. Positive plans must be prepared for their elimination.

37. TEACHING POINTS APPLICABLE:

a. The counterattack is launched with speed, aggressiveness and surprise taking advantage of the confusion already present among attacking enemy elements.

b. Consideration must be given to the time required to deliver nuclear fires in support of the counterattack, to make a tactical damage assessment, and to move the counterattacking force to the line of departure.

c. Counterattack plans are rehearsed as thoroughly as time and security permit.

d. Although counterattack plans are prepared well in advance, in many cases the counterattack will of necessity be launched under conditions other than those planned.

e. Insofar as practicable, maneuver forces avoid passage through friendly defensive positions.

f. In the counterattack, specific plans must be prepared for destroying enemy forces which are contained between blocking forces and counterattacking forces which have seized their objectives.

Command and Staff Department
UNITED STATES ARMY INFANTRY SCHOOL
Fort Benning, Georgia

FUNDAMENTALS OF DEFENSIVE COMBAT AND RETROGRADE OPERATIONS

6120

Section XVII
(Sketch Map G1 to accompany)

38. SITUATION (HAS NO RELATION TO PREVIOUS SITUATIONS):

a. 1st (US) Corps has been directed to establish a new defensive position along the RED River, 40 kilometers (off sketch map) west of TOWN M in order to permit a reorganization of the 1st Allied Army and a buildup of logistical support before resumption of the offensive. 52d Mech Div has been assigned part of the covering mission for 1st Corps. Additional artillery has been attached to the division and engineer units have been placed in support of the division to facilitate conduct of the delay.

b. CG, 52d Mech Div has directed 1st and 2d Brigades to organize and occupy a delaying position from north to south respectively along the BLUE Creek. The brigades will thereafter conduct a delay on successive positions to the west under the cover provided by 3d Bde. The brigades are organized as follows:

<u>1st Bde</u>	<u>2d Bde</u>
2/76 Mech	2/78 Mech
2/77 Mech	2/79 Mech
2/80 Mech	2/81 Mech
2/4 Armor	2/5 Armor
7/50 Arty (with A7/53 Arty atch)	7/51 Arty (with B7/53 Arty atch)
A/52 Engr	B/52 Engr

3d Bde (Div Reserve)

2/82 Mech
2/23 Cav (-Air Cav Troop)
2/6 Armor
7/52 Arty (with C7/53 Arty atch) will be attached upon commitment of Reserve.

c. At the present time, a friendly covering force is in contact with aggressor mechanized forces approximately 15 kilometers east of the BLUE Creek. It is estimated that this covering force will be able to hold the enemy east of BLUE Creek until 1400 today. The time is now 0800 hours.

d. Late yesterday, CO 1st Bde was assigned the mission of delaying on successive Positions BLUE and WHITE and holding the enemy east of Delaying Position WHITE until 2000 tomorrow. TF 2/82 Mech (a part of 3d Bde) will cover the withdrawal of 1st Bde from Delaying Position BLUE and thereafter will occupy the GOPL east of Position WHITE.

e. The 2d How Bn(155mm) (SP), 615th Arty is reinforcing the fires of 7/50 Arty. 1st Bde has completed occupation of Position BLUE and is disposed as shown on Sketch Map G1.

(1) The brigade organization for combat is as shown below:

<u>TF 2/76 Mech</u>	<u>TF 2/77 Mech</u>	<u>2/80 Mech</u>	<u>TF 2/4 Armor (Bde Res)</u>
2/76 Mech	A2/77 Mech	no change	C2/77 Mech
A2/4 Armor	B2/77 Mech		C2/4 Armor
	B2/4 Armor		

(2) Each battalion has organized for combat as shown below:

<u>TF 2/76 Mech</u>	<u>TF 2/77 Mech</u>
TF A2/76 Mech (A2/76-1 plat + 1A/4 Armor)	TF A2/77 Mech (A2/77 + 1B2/4 Armor)
B2/76 Mech	TF B2/77 Mech (B2/77-1 plat + 2B2/4 Armor)
TF C2/76 Mech (C2/76 + 3A2/4 Armor)	TF B2/4 Armor (B2/4-2 plat + 1B2/77 Mech)
TF A2/4 Armor (A2/4-2 plat + 1A2/76 Mech)	
<u>TF 2/4 Armor</u>	<u>2/80 Mech</u>
TF C2/77 Mech (C2/77 - 1 plat + 1C2/4 Armor)	No change
TF C2/4 Armor (C2/4-1 plat + 1C2/77 Mech)	

f. Weather is fair and cool. Wind is from the southwest at 5 knots. BLUE Creek is unfordable to vehicles and fordable with difficulty to foot troops. All bridges are intact but will be destroyed upon withdrawal of covering forces from the east. BMNT: 0605 hours; EENT: 1836 hours.

g. Both sides possess nuclear weapons; within the past two days there has been an increased use of these weapons by Aggressor and friendly forces and Aggressor forces have sustained heavy losses. Aggressor has air superiority; however, friendly forces are capable of achieving local air superiority for limited periods.

h. It is now 0800 hours. You have completed reconnaissance of Delaying Position WHITE and are considering your plan for organization of that position.

39. EIGHTH REQUIREMENT: You are Col 1st Bde.

a. Show on Sketch Map G1 your organization of Delaying Position WHITE. Include boundaries and coordinating points between battalions.

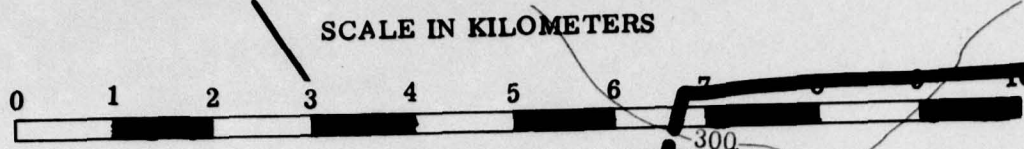
b. What is the composition and location of security forces (if any)? Will you organize a brigade combat outpost?

c. What is the composition and location of the reserve (if any) and how do you visualize your reserve will be used?

d. What measures will you take to detect infiltration?

e. In the conduct of the delay, how will you employ nuclear weapons?

f. How can Army aviation (to include the brigade aviation platoon) be employed in the delaying action?



CONTOUR INTERVAL 50 METERS

DELAYING

K

ROUTE 1

M

402

418

300

ROUTE 2

350

350

483

400

X 1

ROUTE 2

350

476

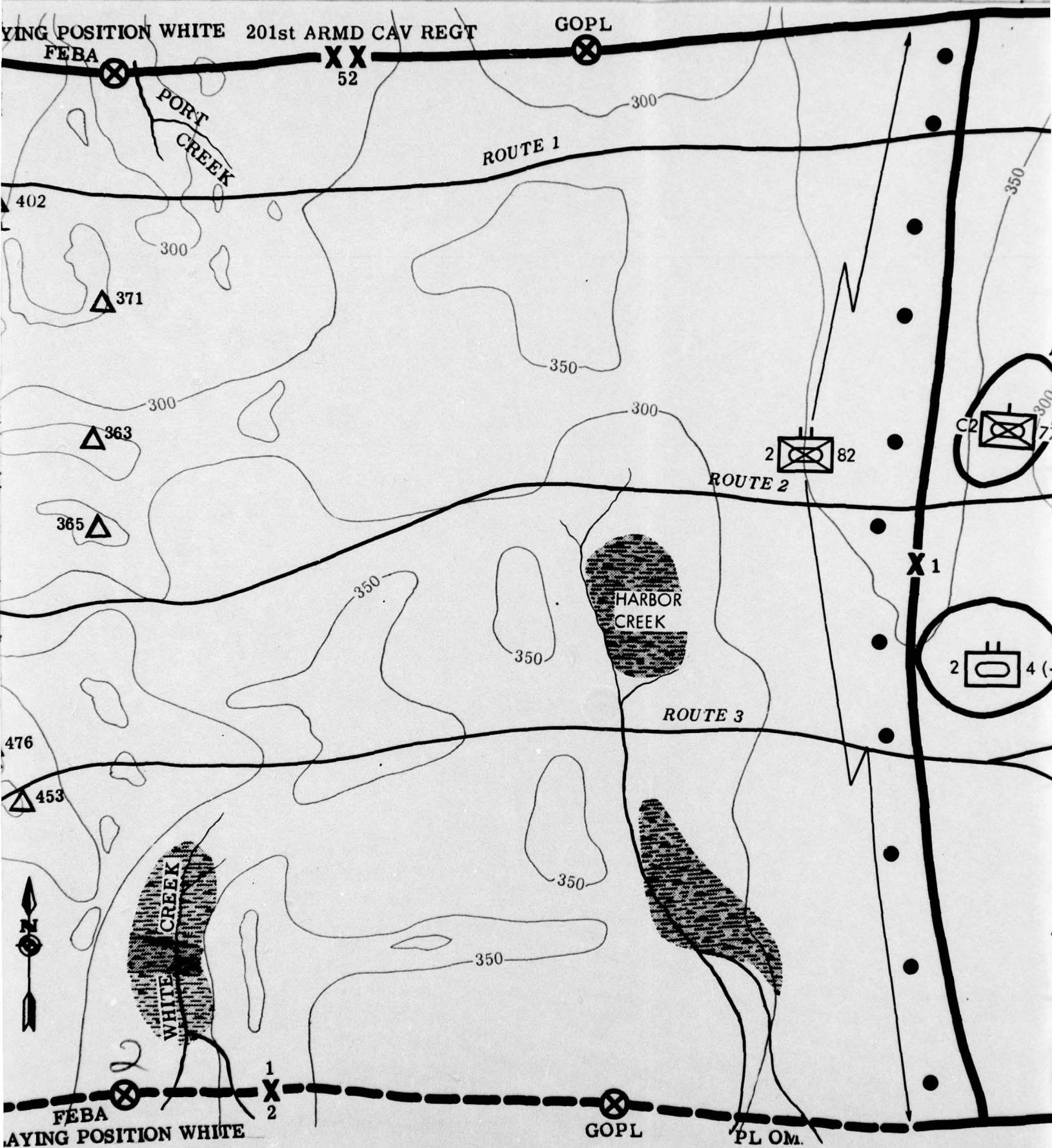
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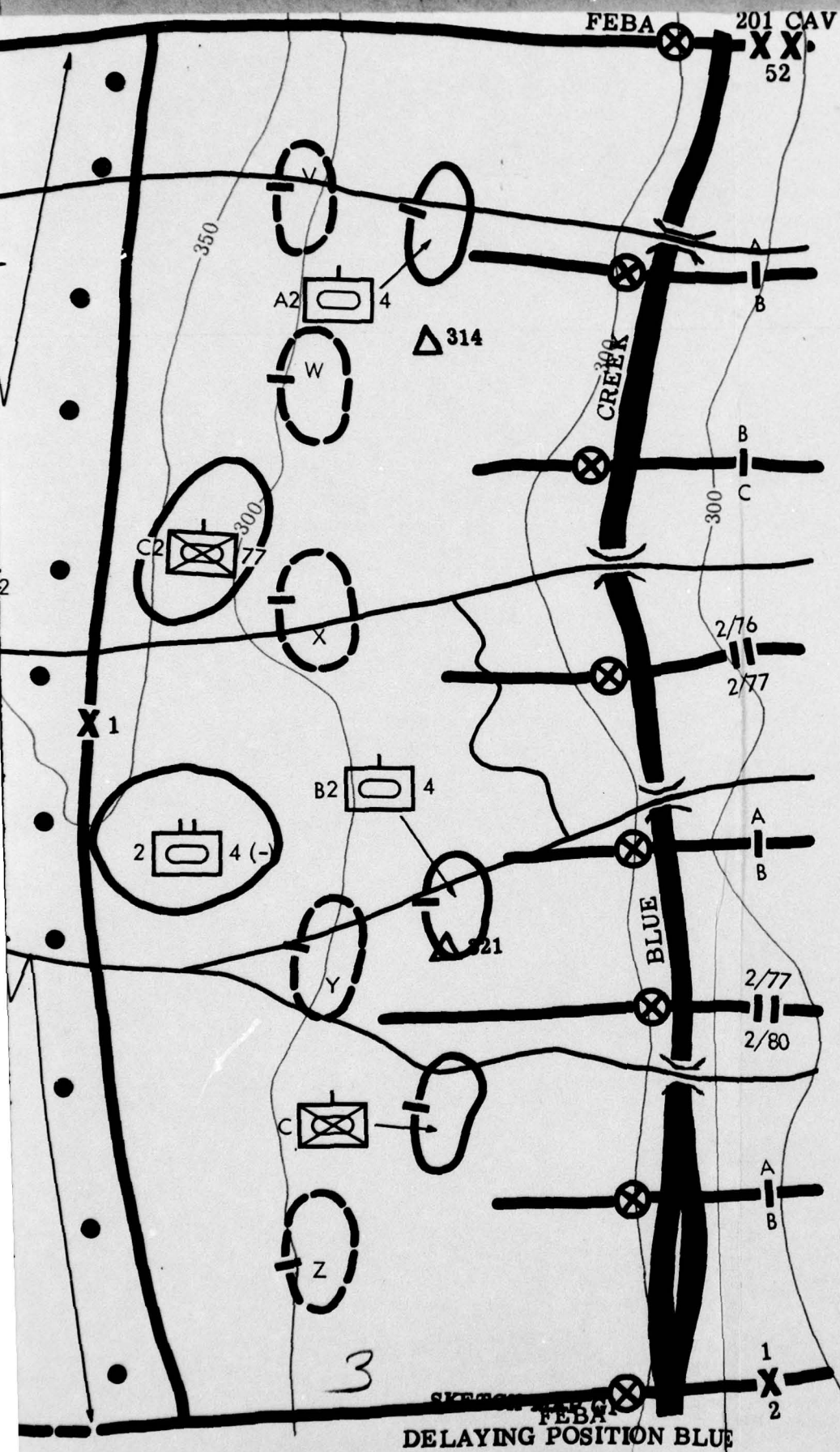
ROUTE 3

EFF ON DIV O

DELAYIN







Command and Staff Department
UNITED STATES ARMY INFANTRY SCHOOL
Fort Benning, Georgia

FUNDAMENTALS OF DEFENSIVE COMBAT AND RETROGRADE OPERATIONS 6120

Section XVIII
(Sketch Map G2 to Accompany)

40. SOLUTION TO EIGHTH REQUIREMENT:

a. Sketch Map G2.

b. Since a GOPL will be established by TF 2/82 Mech, and in view of the probable limited time to establish the new position, no brigade security force (COP) will be established. However, forward companies will establish local security in front of their positions.

c. The brigade reserve will be TF 2/4 Armor and will be organized as follows (Sketch Map G2):

TF C2/77 Mech

Attached: 1 plat, C2/4 Armor
Attach 1 plat to C2/4 Armor

TF C2/4 Armor

Attached: 1 plat C2/77 Mech
Attach 1 tk plat to C2/77 Mech

The brigade reserve will provide the covering force for the forward battalions in a daylight withdrawal and will assist units in their withdrawal. The reserve will limit penetrations and, when necessary, counterattack to assist in extrication of closely engaged units.

d. To detect infiltration, all available ground and aerial surveillance measures available within or to the brigade will be employed. These include employment of short and medium range radar teams of the companies and battalions, divisional and brigade aviation support, ground observation and listening posts, and patrols to cover gaps between units.

e. In a delaying action, nuclear weapons are employed to assist in disengagement, cause maximum delay, and inflict maximum casualties on the enemy.

f. Army aviation (to include the brigade aviation platoon) can be employed in the delaying action in placement and withdrawal of delaying forces, medical evacuation, resupply, aerial surveillance, traffic control, withdrawal of stay-behind forces, aerial radio relay, and in other normal combat and combat support missions.

41. DISCUSSION OF SOLUTION TO EIGHTH REQUIREMENT:

a. (1) In a delaying action, emphasis is placed on dispersed formations, increased reliance on fires and demolitions, flexibility of action, and maneuver designed to inflict maximum punishment on the enemy while avoiding close combat unless it is required to accomplish the mission. In this and other retrograde operations, emphasis is placed on centralized planning and decentralized execution. If the enemy threatens to close on the position, the commander decides whether to execute a daylight withdrawal or risk close combat in order to postpone the withdrawal until darkness.

(2) In this situation, the brigade frontage is approximately 16,000 meters. The

commander analyzed his mission and recognized that on such a frontage there would necessarily be large gaps between units. Following his reconnaissance and recommendations from the staff, he considered that there were four principal avenues of approach into Delaying Position WHITE. An equitable distribution of defensive tasks is achieved by assigning two approaches to TF 2/76 Mech and one each to TF 2/77 Mech and 2/80 Mech and by an appropriate assignment of frontage and organization for combat. The commander directed the battalions to have companies organize strong positions in the vicinity of the most likely avenues of approach. Gaps between these strong positions are covered by patrols, observation posts, and aerial and ground surveillance devices. Additionally, reserve units are positioned so that they may be moved quickly between the strong positions in the event that an enemy penetration occurs.

b. With an adequate division security force (TF 2/82 Mech) to the front, and in view of the probable limited time to establish Position WHITE, no brigade security force is established on Position WHITE. Forward companies will establish local security in front of their positions in the form of road blocks, listening posts, patrols, and observation posts. Contact patrols established by brigade order will meet at designated points and at specified intervals to exchange information and ensure coverage of the brigade sector. Army aviation will be employed in a reconnaissance and surveillance role in support of the brigade to assist in the security mission. Because of the wide frontage normally assigned in a delaying action, the brigade security force is usually less than that required for the defense.

c. (1) In a delaying action, maximum forces and firepower are placed forward; however, a sufficient reserve must be retained consistent with the requirements of the situation. In this situation the division commander has retained a relatively small reserve to act as a covering force for the forward brigades. This reserve may be used to counterattack, protect a threatened flank, secure vital rear areas, conduct spoiling attacks to assist disengaging forces, or provide overwatching fire to a withdrawing unit. The brigade commander similarly retained a small reserve to act as a covering force for the committed battalions and to perform the same type missions assigned to the division reserve. Each committed battalion, in turn, retains a small reserve for the same type missions. Thus, while the bulk of combat power is obviously on the FEBA, the brigade and battalion commanders have some means of influencing the action. It should be noted that tank units, including TF 2/4 Armor(-), are located where they can best counter the main armor threat.

(2) The brigade commander has positioned his reserve units near the areas of probable employment. As was done on Position BLUE, covering positions F through K would be selected by the brigade reserve commander based upon the mission type orders received from brigade. Since the reserve units are highly mobile, they may move quickly to these covering positions or to any area where a penetration is threatened or where they may be required to assist forward committed units.

(3) The mission of the reserve in a delaying action is to cover or assist the withdrawal of forward elements or assist in extricating forces which may become heavily engaged. In a counterattack in the delaying action, the mission is usually to disrupt the enemy attack or divert him long enough for closely engaged friendly elements to disengage. A counterattack usually does not seek to restore the position unless it is required for the accomplishment of the delaying mission.

d. With the extended frontages which usually accompany a delaying action, the threat of enemy infiltration increases. In addition, with the dispersion required by the use of nuclear weapons, or the threat thereof, infiltration will receive increased emphasis as an offensive technique. For these reasons, commanders must ensure that adequate means are provided to counter infiltration. Movement of civilians through friendly lines must be controlled. All measures, including the employment of short and medium range radar teams, divisional and

brigade aviation support, ground observation posts, listening posts, and patrols will be taken to prevent enemy infiltration.

e. In a delaying action, nuclear weapons, to include Atomic Demolition Munitions (ADM), are employed to assist in disengagement and cause maximum delay and damage to the enemy. The very nature of a delaying action, with its extended frontages, linear formations, and movement under conditions of reduced visibility, reduces the delaying force's vulnerability to enemy nuclear weapons. When weather conditions permit, smoke may be used to provide concealment. Incidental protection from some of the thermal effects of nuclear weapons may also be achieved by use of smoke.

f. Army aircraft can be effectively employed in a delaying action to assist in controlling delaying units; to assist in surveillance of areas; to perform target acquisition missions; to extend communications by radio relay; to determine the condition of routes of movement; to evacuate wounded; and to move supplies and equipment. Armed aircraft may be used to assist heavily engaged units in breaking contact and to cover their withdrawal. Units may be readily positioned or withdrawn by Army aircraft. In addition, stay-behind forces may be recovered by Army aircraft after they have accomplished their mission of destruction, target acquisition, surveillance, or adjustment of fires.

42. TEACHING POINTS APPLICABLE:

a. In a delaying action, emphasis is placed on dispersed formations, increased reliance on fires and demolitions, flexibility of action, and maneuver designed to inflict maximum punishment on the enemy while avoiding close combat.

b. Because of the wide frontages normally assigned in a delaying action, the brigade security force is usually less than that required for the defense.

c. In a delaying action the brigade normally retains a small, highly mobile reserve to cover or assist the withdrawal of forward elements or to assist in extricating forces which may become heavily engaged.

d. The counterattack in a delaying action does not usually seek to restore a position unless this is required to accomplish the delaying mission.

e. In a delaying action, nuclear weapons are employed to assist in disengagement and cause maximum delay and damage to the enemy.

f. In view of the extended frontages which usually characterize a delaying action, the requirement for counterinfiltration measures is increased.

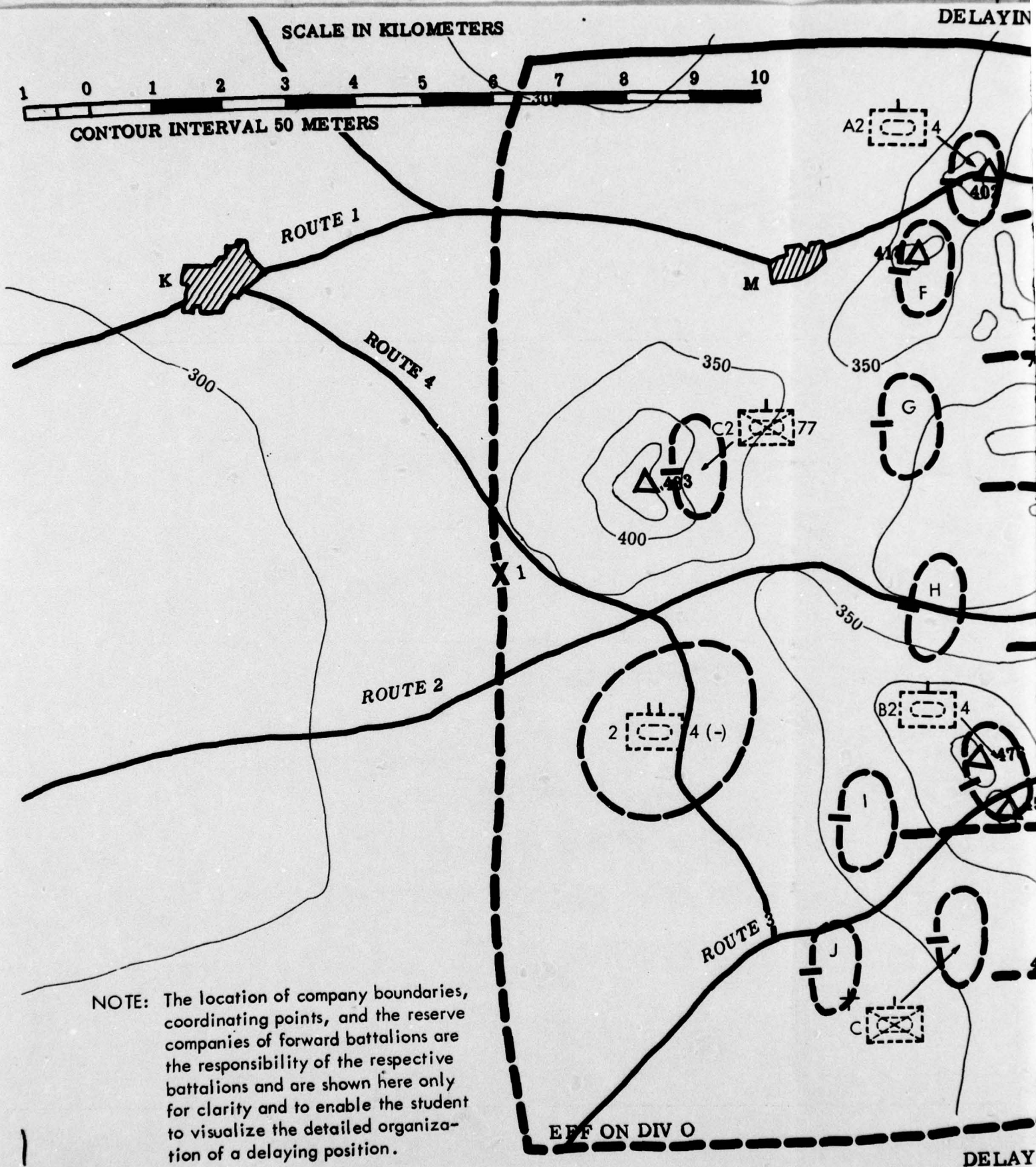
g. In a delaying action, Army aircraft may be effectively employed in control, movement of personnel and supplies, surveillance, target acquisition and other missions.

43. SITUATION CONTINUED: It is now 1200 hours. Plans for the organization of Delaying Position WHITE have been completed. TF 2/82 Mech, part of the division covering force, is occupying positions east of Phase Line OMEGA to cover the withdrawal of the 1st Bde.

44. NINTH REQUIREMENT: You are Lt Col TF 2/76 Mech.

a. Show on Sketch Map G2 your plan for a night withdrawal from Delaying Position BLUE to Delaying Position WHITE. Include a graphic portrayal of control measures used for the withdrawal.

- b. What is the organization and mission of the detachments left in contact?
- c. Who will command the detachments left in contact?
- d. What is the sequence of withdrawal?
- e. What are the techniques which you would use in withdrawing APC's for the main body in a night withdrawal?
- f. How will your plan for the daylight withdrawal differ from your plan for the night withdrawal? Include control measures, security for the withdrawal, and sequence of withdrawal.
- g. Which type of withdrawal, day or night, is preferred, and why?



LAYING POSITION WHITE 201st ARMD CAV REGT

GOPL

PL OMEGA

FEBA

XX
52

PORT
CREEK

ROUTE 1

A
B
300

371

B
C
300

363

355

2/76

365

2/77

EFF ON BDE O

ROUTE 2

2 82

X 1

HARBOR
CREEK

A
B

403

405

2/77

475

453

408

2/80

EFF ON BDE O

ROUTE 3

WHITE
CREEK

350

A
B

402

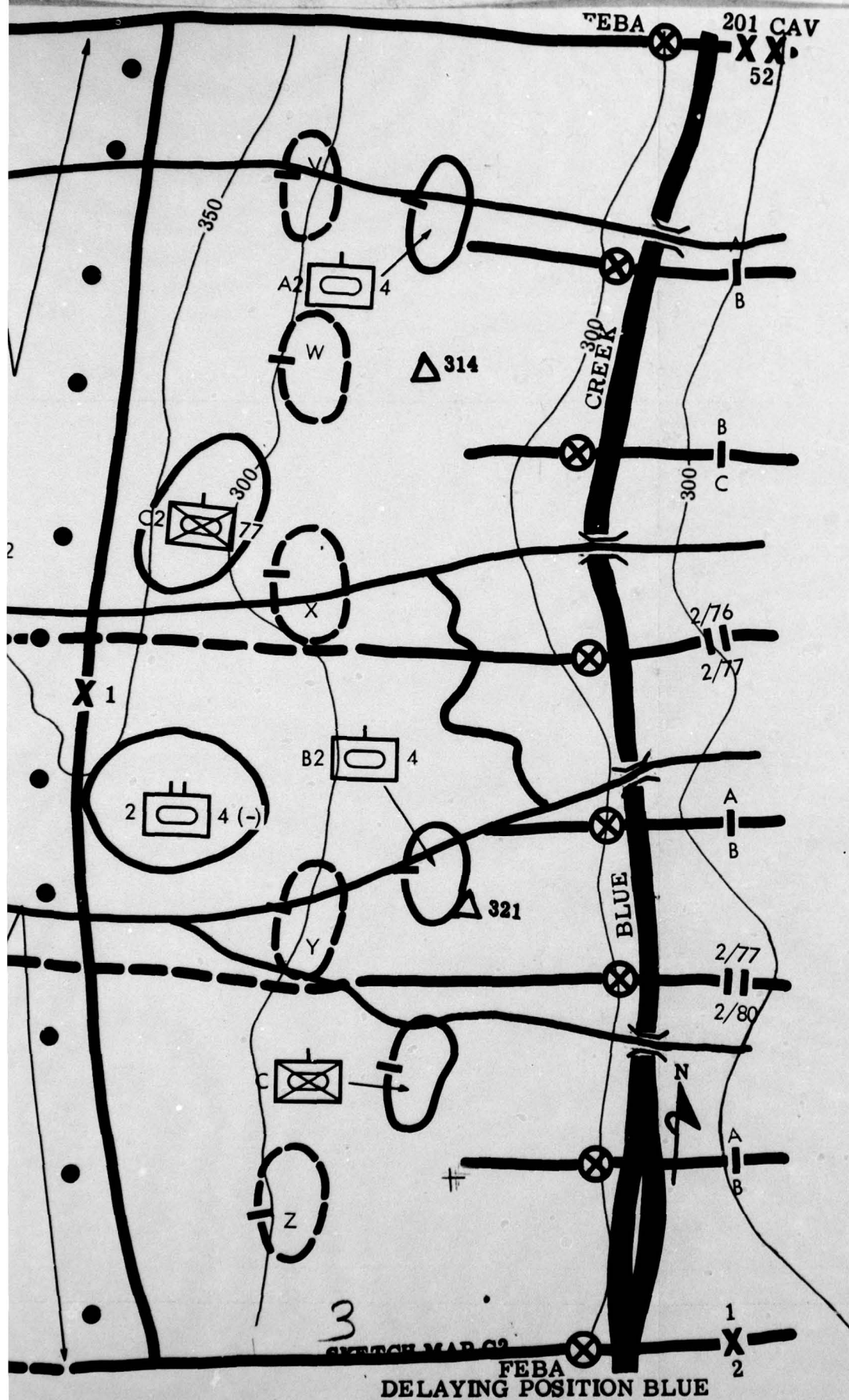
FEBA
LAYING POSITION WHITE

GOPL

PL OMEGA

1
2

2 4



Command and Staff Department
UNITED STATES ARMY INFANTRY SCHOOL
Fort Benning, Georgia

FUNDAMENTALS OF DEFENSIVE COMBAT AND RETROGRADE OPERATIONS 6120

Section XIX
(Sketch Maps G3 and G4 to Accompany)

45. SOLUTION TO NINTH REQUIREMENT:

a. Sketch Map G3.

b. Detachments left in contact will consist of approximately one-third of the rifle elements and one-half of the crew-served weapons of each of the forward companies; the armored cavalry platoon; radar teams located in forward company areas; tanks located in the areas of the forward companies; one-third of the supporting engineers; fire support elements to include approximately one-half of all representative calibers of the artillery; the forward air controller; and necessary command, control, and medical elements. Their mission will be to continue the delay, provide security for the withdrawal, and simulate normal activities in order to deceive the enemy.

c. The Bn XO will be designated as commander, detachments left in contact.

d. Trains and rear installations usually precede movement of the main body to the rear. All forward rifle companies (less detachments left in contact) will withdraw simultaneously. The reserves will withdraw immediately prior to the withdrawal of the forward companies. The battalion mortar and Davy Crockett platoon remains in position initially to provide maximum fire support at the critical time, i.e., the time the withdrawal is initiated. After the rifle elements have completed the initial phase of the withdrawal, the mortar/DC platoon, less those elements remaining with the detachments left in contact (two mortar squads and one DC weapon), withdraws.

e. Armored personnel carriers (except those provided for detachments left in contact) may be withdrawn at night using one or more of the following techniques: (This list does not necessarily indicate the priority. Similar techniques may be employed by tanks in withdrawing at night when they are no longer required on position.)

(1) APC may be withdrawn shortly after dark, a few at a time, to company assembly areas; in this case artillery and mortar fires are used to cover the noise of movement.

(2) Selected APC's may be withdrawn during daylight to company assembly areas using infiltration techniques unless restricted by higher headquarters.

(3) All forces on position may withdraw simultaneously in APC without using detachments left in contact.

(4) APC may remain forward initially and, immediately prior to withdrawal of detachments left in contact, may move to the rear to pick up elements of the main body which had withdrawn earlier.

f. (1) Sketch Map G4.

(2) Zones of withdrawal and covering forces are used for daylight withdrawals instead of routes of withdrawal and detachments left in contact used for a night withdrawal. Other control measures for a daylight withdrawal are similar to those used for a night withdrawal.

g. A night-type withdrawal is normally preferred over a daylight-type withdrawal.

46. DISCUSSION OF SOLUTION TO NINTH REQUIREMENT:

a. (1) In a withdrawal from action, a battalion is normally assigned a zone of withdrawal, with boundaries of the zone extending to the rear to a division covering force or to the new position. Priority of routes may also be prescribed by the brigade commander. Within any restrictions imposed by the higher headquarters, the battalion commander uses those control measures which can best accomplish the withdrawal mission. In this night withdrawal, company assembly areas, phase lines, routes of withdrawal, start points (SP), release points (RP), guides, and traffic posts are designated. In addition, the battalion commander assigns road priorities and recommends to the brigade commander the location of traffic control posts (TCP) along routes of withdrawal.

(2) The assembly areas selected for the companies are located well forward to facilitate early reorganization of the units for the night withdrawal. Assembly areas are on good routes of withdrawal, and are in defilade, wherever possible. They provide for concealment, good entrances and exits, and minimum lateral movement. These areas are located directly to the rear of the company positions. Assembly areas should be planned for the night withdrawal; however, their use is not mandatory if, in the opinion of the commander, the movement can be controlled without their use. If they are used, they should be occupied for the briefest possible time in order to reduce vulnerability to enemy fires. Each commander is responsible for security of his unit's assembly area.

(3) Co A and B will use ROUTE 1 in withdrawal to Delaying Position WHITE. Co C will use ROUTE 2 until it passes HARBOR Creek; thereafter, it will move cross country to HILL 363. Start points and release points are located on all routes to ensure control of movement. Co A will clear the SP on ROUTE 1 before Co B arrives. If additional roads in the area were available, alternate routes would be prescribed to ensure orderly movement to the rear in the event that primary routes were denied by enemy or other action.

(4) Guides and traffic posts are used to facilitate movement and assist in control of the withdrawal. The establishment of two traffic posts, manned by members of the battalion staff, or other personnel from battalion headquarters and headquarters company, is deemed necessary in this situation. Neither battalion nor brigade has the organic capability to establish traffic control posts; however, the commander may recommend the location of TCP for establishment by division in his area. If the brigade has a military police platoon attached, it may establish its own traffic control posts.

(5) Higher commanders usually prescribe that the main forces of the battalion begin their withdrawal shortly after dark, specifying the exact time. The time to withdraw the detachments left in contact is specified by the brigade commander and may be at a prescribed hour, on order, or upon the occurrence of a specified contingency. The brigade commander also specifies the action to be taken in case of a hostile attack.

b. (1) Detachments left in contact simulate normal activities of the unit and, within their capabilities, protect the withdrawal of the main body. The detachments left in contact normally do not exceed one-third of the rifle strength of the rifle companies, augmented by approximately one-half of the supporting weapons such as mortars, Davy Crockett, machine-guns, antitank weapons, and radar teams located in the forward company areas. Elements of the tank company located in the forward company areas remain as part of the detachments left

in contact to provide added antitank protection to the battalion. Engineer, medical and other combat support units will also provide elements for the detachments left in contact. The armored cavalry platoon remains as the reserve element for the detachments left in contact and is prepared to maintain contact with the enemy after withdrawal of the detachments left in contact.

(2) Approximately one-half of each type and caliber of artillery and other supporting weapons remains in position to support the detachments left in contact and to aid in maintaining the appearance of normal activities. As much as one-half of the battalion mortar and Davy Crockett platoon may remain in position to support the detachments left in contact.

(3) Deception and secrecy are obtained by suppressing noise made by withdrawing units, by simulating normal supporting fires, by conducting normal patrols, by using dummy positions, and by simulating normal radar and radio traffic. A skeleton command post is left in position. Tanks employed with the forward forces normally remain with the detachments left in contact unless overriding considerations dictate otherwise. The withdrawal of tanks is accompanied by a ruse, delivery of artillery concentrations, or an air strike. The techniques for withdrawing APC are discussed in paragraph 46e below.

c. Because of the size and composition of the detachments left in contact, they are normally commanded by the Bn XO, who assumes control at the time the withdrawal begins.

d. The sequence of the night withdrawal is essentially as outlined below:

(1) Trains and other rear installations usually precede the column to the rear, followed in turn by company vehicles not required by forces on position. If authorized by higher headquarters, these elements may move to the rear by infiltration during daylight.

(2) The reserve may be withdrawn immediately prior to the withdrawal of forward companies in order to maintain the secrecy of the withdrawal for as long as possible and to facilitate orderly movement of the battalion to the rear. If the battalion commander anticipates possible pressure from the enemy, he may retain the reserve in position until the main body of forward companies has passed through the reserve position. The armored cavalry platoon would remain in position as the reserve of the battalion detachments left in contact. The brigade reserve may be withdrawn prior or subsequent to the withdrawal of the main body of forward battalions, depending upon the situation. If enemy pressure is anticipated or the movement of the tanks may compromise the secrecy of the withdrawal, the brigade commander may decide to retain TF 2/4 Armor in position until forward rifle units have passed through the brigade covering force.

(3) All elements of the forward companies (less detachments left in contact) begin their withdrawal simultaneously. Small units withdraw through platoon assembly areas over previously designated and reconnoitered routes, where march columns are formed for further movement to the rear. For purposes of control in the withdrawal, supporting units are normally attached to the unit in whose area they are employed. From the assembly areas, companies move through SP along previously designated routes to the rear position. If the battalion withdraws to a new position, its units are usually employed in a formation on the new position similar to that employed on the old position.

(4) Heavy mortars remain in position to cover the initiation of the withdrawal by the forward companies. Some mortars must always be in position to cover the withdrawal by the forward companies. Mortar units, minus the elements remaining in position to support detachments left in contact, usually move to preselected positions to the rear soon after the frontline elements of the forward units start to withdraw. Road priorities are normally given to these mortar units.

(5) Detachments left in contact withdraw at the time or under conditions prescribed by the higher commander.

(6) Careful provision is made to ensure that noise does not betray the withdrawal. Planned covering noises may be created to mask the noise of withdrawing track-laying vehicles. Blackout discipline is enforced. Measures for enforcement of secrecy are taken, and deceptive measures are used to the maximum.

e. Armored personnel carriers of the main body may be withdrawn using one or more of the techniques outlined below:

(1) APC's, except those provided for detachments left in contact, may be withdrawn shortly after dark a few at a time to company assembly areas. Artillery and mortar fires are used to cover the noise of movement. This technique may be used when routes to the rear are limited and when early movement of APC's can be made without compromising secrecy.

(2) APC's may be withdrawn to company assembly areas during daylight using infiltration techniques. Such movement may be restricted by higher headquarters. The technique is appropriate when enemy air activity is limited and when infiltration can be accomplished without compromising the secrecy of the operation.

(3) All forces on position may withdraw simultaneously without using detachments left in contact. If such a movement is undertaken, the withdrawing unit forms a rear guard to protect the movement against any unexpected enemy action. This type of action may be employed to vary the pattern of withdrawal when an enemy attack appears probable, or when delaying on alternate positions.

(4) APC's remain under company or lower echelon control. All APC's may remain initially in their defiladed forward positions. The main body moves on foot to the rear to a predesignated assembly area(s) or along a route(s) where they may later be picked up by APC's remaining on position. Immediately prior to the withdrawal of the detachments left in contact, APC's for the main body begin their movement to the rear where they pick up designated elements of the main body. (It is essential that plans provide for loading of dismounted elements on specifically designated APC's. This will facilitate loading and ensure retention of tactical integrity during the remainder of the move and on the next position.) Until these APC's on the initial position (usually each with 2 or 3 men) begin their withdrawal, they may on occasion add additional firepower to the detachments left in contact. This technique is appropriate when multiple routes to the rear will enable a quick and orderly withdrawal of all APC's and when there is danger of compromising the secrecy of the withdrawal by earlier movement.

f. (Sketch Map G4) In this daylight withdrawal, in order to provide space in which to operate, zones of withdrawal back to the next delaying position are assigned each forward unit. Assembly areas, routes of withdrawal, phase lines, start points, release points, guides, road priorities, traffic control posts (TCP), and traffic posts (TP) may also be utilized if required. A covering force is employed to secure the withdrawal of the forward elements.

(1) In the daylight withdrawal, assembly areas designated for the forward companies are located to the rear of these companies along a general line to the rear of the positions of the battalion covering force. In this case alternate assembly areas are also designated to the rear of the positions of the division covering force. These alternate assembly areas would be used in the event that the companies were required to fight all the way to the division covering force and thus were unable to use primary assembly areas. The assembly areas for the battalion and brigade covering forces, although not shown, would also be located to the rear of the division covering force. Locating assembly areas in this manner provides

protection for the assembly. The companies are not required to use these assembly areas, but they are designated for use if necessary.

(2) Zones of withdrawal are designated by extending boundaries to the rear. Assignment of zones ensures coordination between adjacent units if they are required to fight during withdrawal. The boundaries are extended at least through the brigade covering force and as far as the companies may be required to move in deployed formations. This may be, as in this case, all the way to the next delaying position. The companies are also instructed to move cross-country in dispersed formations during the withdrawal. A daylight withdrawal is a difficult operation, especially in the face of enemy air superiority, and units moving in column along roads present an excellent target for enemy artillery and air. During periods of reduced visibility, e.g., in heavy fog or snowfall, a daylight withdrawal may be conducted in a manner similar to that of a night withdrawal.

(3) Each forward company may be required to cover its own withdrawal. The battalion reserve, as the battalion covering force, will assist the withdrawal by extricating units which become heavily engaged and, insofar as possible, by covering the withdrawal of forward companies. The initial location of this force is such that it covers the area of the most probable enemy action. The withdrawal of the battalion covering force will be covered by the brigade covering force, and their withdrawal, in turn, will be covered by the division covering force.

(4) When the terrain and the situation permit, all forward units withdraw simultaneously in a daylight withdrawal. If this is not practicable, the units least heavily engaged are withdrawn first. The fires of organic and supporting weapons are adjusted to assist in the disengagement. In some situations, it may be necessary to launch limited counterattacks to relieve enemy pressure on forward elements to permit their withdrawal. Smoke screens are useful in disengaging units, and tactical air support, if available, is used to the maximum.

g. A daylight withdrawal is avoided whenever possible. A night type is preferred over a daylight-type withdrawal for the following reasons: it reduces the effectiveness of observed enemy fires; deceives the enemy; reduces vulnerability to enemy air activity; allows the withdrawing commander to choose the time and place of disengagement of the main body; and complicates the attacking enemy commanders' control problems.

47. TEACHING POINTS APPLICABLE:

a. The night-type withdrawal is characterized by secrecy, deception, and the requirement for close control and coordination.

b. Detachments left in contact simulate the activity of the original force in order to deceive the enemy as to the withdrawal.

c. The detachments left in contact normally do not exceed one-third of the rifle strength of the forward companies, augmented by approximately one-half of the supporting weapons, and include representative detachments of other elements of the battalion and attachments and supporting weapons required to simulate normal activity.

d. For purposes of control, in the withdrawal, supporting units are normally attached to the unit in whose area they are employed.

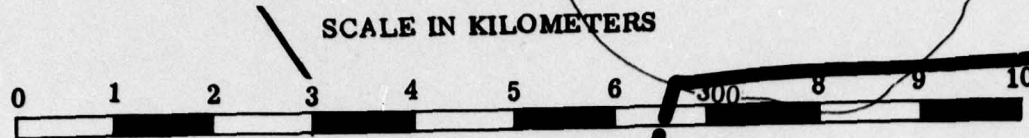
e. Indirect fire weapons remain in position during the early stages of a withdrawal to provide maximum fire support at the time the forward companies initiate their withdrawal.

f. A daylight withdrawal envisions the necessity for fighting in the withdrawal and for the covering of the withdrawal of forward elements by other forces.

g. Some of the control measures which may be employed in either a night or a daylight withdrawal are: check points; company assembly areas; phase lines; guides; start points; release points; routes of withdrawal (including alternate routes); road priorities; traffic posts; and, in some instances, traffic control posts.

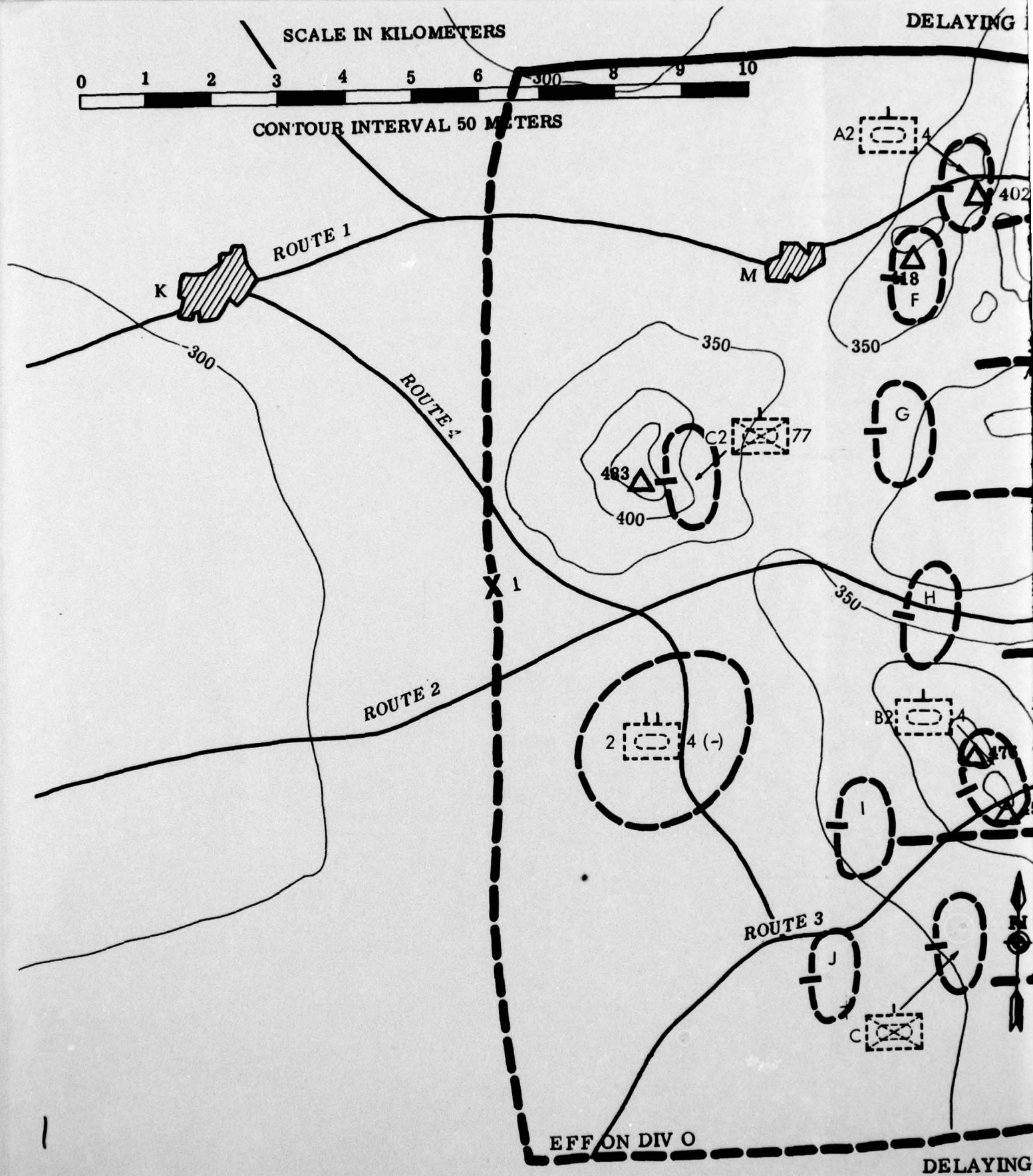
h. Whenever possible a night-type withdrawal is conducted in preference to a daylight-type withdrawal.

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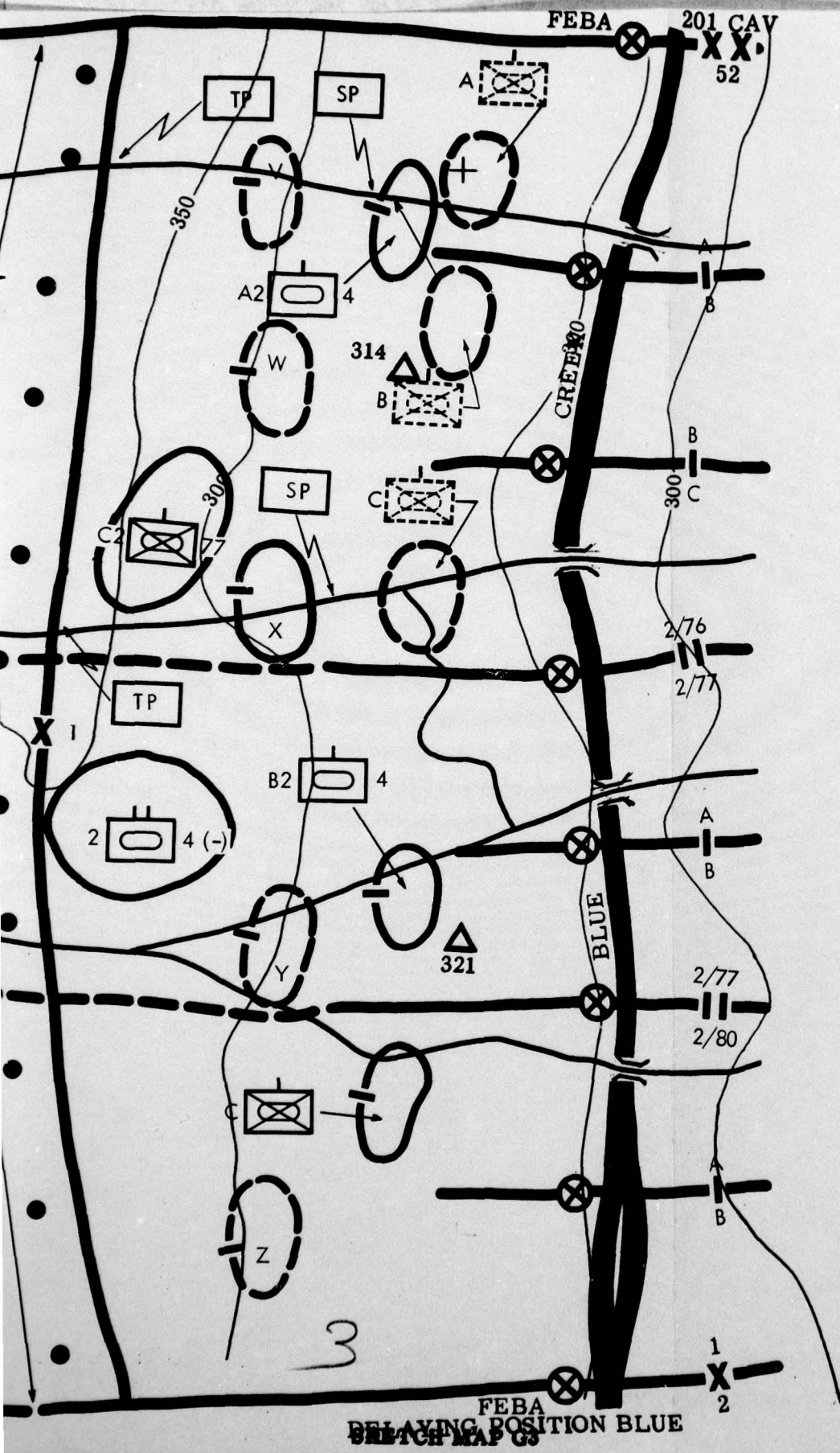


CONTOUR INTERVAL 50 METERS

DELAYING

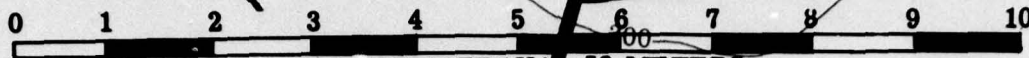






FEBA
DELAYING POSITION BLUE
SKETCH MAP G3

SCALE IN KILOMETERS



CONTOUR INTERVAL 50 METERS

DELAYING F

K ROUTE 1

M

ROUTE 4

300

350

350

400

X 1

ROUTE 2

2 (-)

ROUTE 3

EFF ON DIV O

DELAYING FE

A2 4

402

118

C2 77

G

H

B2 4

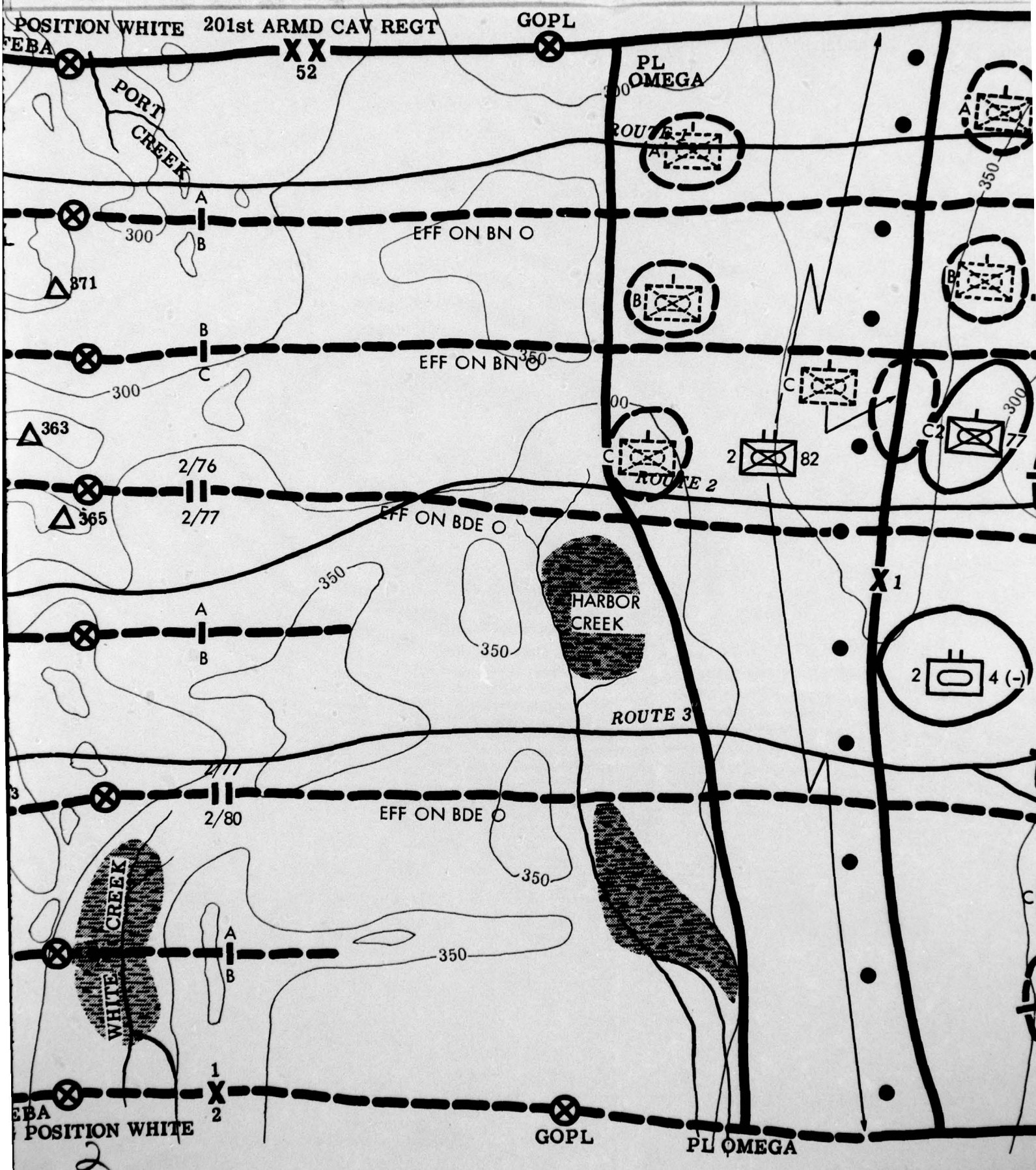
446

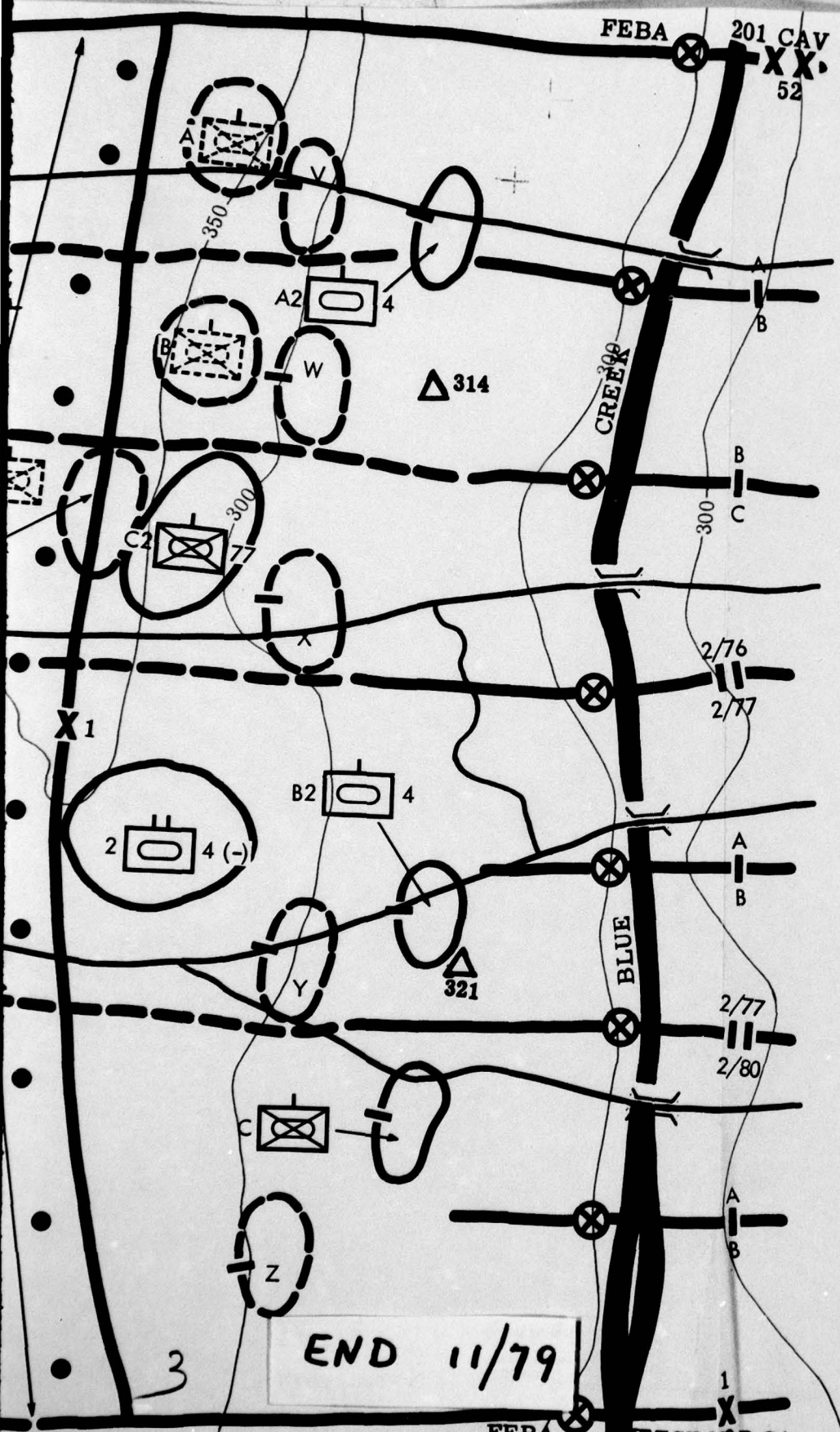
453

I

J

C





FEBA DELAYING POSITION BLUE SKETCH MAP G4